

SUBJECT POLITICAL-----ARGENTINA

(FOR INFORMATION DIGEST)

From ARGENTINA

No. 3477

Date July 25

1935

Replying to No.

Date

19

3600: Political Issues and Problems.Bearing on domestic condition.

During the term of office of former President Irigoyen (1916-1922) the political situation in Argentina was obscure and complicated, due in a large measure to the personal policy pursued by President Irigoyen, who was then, and is now, the dominant leader of the Radical Party. Sr. Irigoyen became so immersed in party politics and pre-electoral activities that he neglected to deal with the intricate labor economic and other issues resulting from the World War, as well as international problems.

In 1922, however, a new President was elected, and the Radical Party still counted on a majority at the polls. During the two and a half years of his presidency, Dr. Alvear has shown himself to be quite a different man from his predecessor----a man of intellectual qualities with diplomatic experience, and at the same time a distinguished member of the Argentine forum.

Argentina is not confronted with any very serious political issues. The most important problem at present is to get the government in such a shape so that it can function. At present and for some time past no party has been able to obtain a majority in Congress, so that business can be transacted, and the President has his hands tied in trying to have anything done.

There are a number of issues which the Government desires to put through such as the new land colonization scheme whereby immigrants will be enabled to settle in more desirable parts of the country, to develop the agricultural resources, and, at the same time, the landowners will be required to sell part of their land; the expansion of the railway system; many new lines planned can be constructed and needed repairs can be made; an income tax in which the government can obtain a new source of revenue which will not be such a burden to the majority of the people; modification of the new Pensions Law passed in 1923 which is unpopular alike to employers and labor, and in its present state unworkable; the new Budget Bill and the funding of the floating debt.

Parties do not seem to be interested in issues of their own, but divided on personal lines only.

4-1 2657-2-75 31

SUBJECT POLITICAL-----ARGENTINA

(FOR INFORMATION DIGEST)

From ARGENTINA

No. 3478 Date July 25, 1925

Replying to No. Date

3210: Present Legislature.Political composition.

The strength of the political parties as represented in Congress at present is as shown in the table below:

Party	No. in Senate	No. in House
Radical Antipersonalist Party	14	40
Personal or old Radical Party	5	48
Conservative Party	9	38
Socialist Party	2	18
Progressive Democratic party	-	6
Totals	30	150

Majority and minority parties; leading personalities.

The titular head of the Radical antipersonalist party is President Alvear although he cannot be said to be a strong leader. This is a young party and was caused by the split in the old Radical Party. Ex-president Irigoyen selected as his successor Dr. Alvear who he believed would be most apt to win the election and follow the policies as dictated by him. Since attaining office President Alvear has refused to follow the authority of the ex-President blindly, and this has caused the party split. The present leaders of this party are the members of the Cabinet and some of the members in Congress. The Vice-President is an Irigoyenist.

The old Radical Party owes its allegiance to ex-President Irigoyen, a man of great personality. He controls sufficient strength in the government to bloc any legislation which he wishes.

Some of the Irigoyen leaders are the Vice-President, Dr. Epidio Gonzalez, the Governor of the Province of Buenos Aires, several members of Congress, and Ambassador Pueyrredon of Argentina to the United States.

Both of the above parties have as a policy the improvement of the condition and increase in influence of the laboring classes.

The policy of the Conservative Party seems to be to resist any encroachments on the existing order of things. It is for the perpetuation of the conditions under which the rich land-owners obtained their wealth, and it resists any attempts to impair the privileges of this class. The leaders of the party seem to be Senator Leopoldo Melo from the Province of Entre Rios, and Senator Fernando Saguer from Buenos Aires Province.

The Socialist Party is organized along less extreme lines

than most Socialist parties, and does not have any definite policy except that it is anti-personalist.

The Progressive Democratic Party is a small party which did much to block the influence of the Personalist Radical Party in the Corioba elections last March. Ex-president Irigoyen made a great campaign in this province to secure the election of his own candidate for Governor and representatives in Congress, but was defeated.

The Party in power, the Radical Antipersonalist Party, seems to be definitely blocked as far as any constructive legislation is concerned. It has the largest number of senators, though not a majority, and a fewer number of deputies than the personalists. None of the parties seem to get together on any issue, and it is problematical when this can be done.

The chief opposition to the administration at present is ex-President Irigoyen, and the party headed by him.

G-2 REPORT

41 2657.027

SUBJECT POLITICAL-----ARGENTINA

(FOR INFORMATION DIGEST)

From ARGENTINA

No. 3487 Date August 10, 1935

Replying to No. Date 1935

3110: Present Executive.

Loyalty and Support of Cabinet.

During the latter part of July and early in August a change has occurred in the Federal Cabinet, and something approaching a Cabinet crisis took place, and nearly resulted in the resignation of all its members.

The Governor of the Province of Buenos Aires is a strong Irigoyen man, and the condition of affairs in this province has been notorious for several months. The inefficiency and graft which has taken place has been written up a good deal in the press, and before the meeting of the present legislature the President had stated his intention to request Congress to intervene and take over its government.

Dr. Gallo, the Minister of the Interior, was a strong advocate of this policy, and after the meeting of Congress, finding that the President had changed his mind on intervention, resigned his post.

The President changed his attitude on intervention as he did not desire to make the split in the Radical Party any greater than it is at present, and his new appointment to the Ministry of Interior of Dr. José P. Tamborini, a member of the Irigoyen faction of the Radical Party, is regarded by members of his own faction as an attempt at a rapprochement with the Irigoyenistas.

After the resignation of Dr. Gallo, the other members of the Cabinet tendered their resignations, but they were not accepted by the President.

On August 4, 1935 Dr. Le Breton, the Minister of Agriculture, who is regarded as the most efficient Cabinet officer for the Department of Agriculture which this country has ever had, again tendered his resignation, but he was persuaded to withdraw it until after the coming visit of the Prince of Wales. It is believed that after this visit the other Cabinet officers will follow the steps of Dr. Le Breton, and the President will be forced to form a new Cabinet. This possibly might force the President into the hands of Irigoyen as there is some doubt as to whether or not members of the President's own faction will consent to serve on a mixed Cabinet of Alvearistas and Irigoyenistas.

G-2 REPORT

4-1 1925 2657-2. 7.5 4 OCT 3

FOR DEPARTMENT

SUBJECT POLITICAL-----ARGENTINA

(FOR INFORMATION DIGEST)

From ARGENTINA

No. 3503 Date September 10, 1925

Replying to No. Date OCT 1 1925 19

3600: Political Issues and Problems.

The main political problem at issue at present and for some time past has been the inability of the different political factors to get together so as to command a working majority in Congress in order to pass important legislation. The Budget for the year 1924 was never passed, money being authorized by Congress from month to month based on the 1923 Budget. The budgets for 1925 and 1926 are before Congress at the present time with little hope of their passage this year.

The final outcome of the Pensions Law No. 11,289 which is generally unpopular throughout the country is a matter of uncertainty. The Senate has voted its repeal, but the Chamber of Deputies has refused to act upon it.

Many important economic problems such as the land settlement scheme, which would open up parts of large holdings for settlement, new railroad construction, new construction work in the port etc. have not been passed.

The political issues and problems do not have any effect on international affairs.

Binding Margin.

G-2 REPORT

4-1

2657-L-75

SUBJECT POLITICAL-----ARGENTINA

(FOR INFORMATION DIGEST)

From ARGENTINA

No. 3512 Date September 10, 1925

Replying to No. Date, 19

3110: Present Executive and Ministry,

On August 31st Dr. LeBreton presented his resignation as Minister of Agriculture to the President of the Republic, and it was accepted. He would have resigned at the same time as Dr. Gallo, the former Minister of the Interior, but he was induced by the President to keep his post until after the visit of the Prince of Wales. Dr. LeBreton's resignation, as well as that of Dr. Gallo was caused by the President's refusal to intervene in the Government of the Province of Buenos Aires.

Dr. LeBreton was considered one of the big men in the Cabinet, and the best Minister of Agriculture the country has ever had.

Dr. Emilio Mihura, who was Postmaster General, has been appointed in Dr. LeBreton's place, and Dr. Arturo Goyeneche, the former President of the Chamber of Deputies has been appointed as Postmaster General.

Binding Margin.

## G - 2 REPORT

4-1 1935 2657-L-78-5

WAR DEPARTMENT

SUBJECT POLITICAL-----ARGENTINA

(FOR INFORMATION DIGEST)

From ARGENTINA

No. 3508 Date September 10, 1935

Replying to No. Date 1935

3700: Political Parties and Groups.

The strength of the political parties as represented in Congress at present is as shown in the table below:

Party	No. in Senate	No. in House
Radical Antipersonalist Party	14	40
Personal or old Radical Party	5	48
Conservative Party	9	38
Socialist Party	2	18
Progressive Democratic Party	-	6
	30	150

Majority and minority parties; leading personalities.

The titular head of the Radical antipersonalist party is President Alvear although he cannot be said to be a strong leader. This is a young party and was caused by the split in the old Radical Party. Ex-President Irigoyen selected as his successor Dr. Alvear, who he believed would be most apt to win the election and follow the policies as dictated by him. Since attaining office President Alvear has refused to follow the authority of the ex-President blindly, and this has caused the party split. The present leaders of this party are the members of the Cabinet and some of the members in Congress. The Vice-President is an Irigoyenist.

The old Radical Party owes its allegiance to ex-President Irigoyen, a man of great personality. He controls sufficient strength in the government to block any legislation which he wishes.

Some of the Irigoyen leaders are the Vice-President, Dr. Elpidio Gonzalez, the Governor of the Province of Buenos Aires, several members of Congress, and Ambassador Pueyrredon of Argentina to the United States.

Both of the above parties have as a policy the improvement of the condition and increase in influence of the laboring class.

The policy of the Conservative Party seems to be to resist any encroachments on the existing order of things. It is for the perpetuation of the conditions under which the rich landowners obtained their wealth, and it resists any attempts to impair the privileges of this class. The leaders of the party seem to be Senator Leopoldo Melo from the Province of Entre Rios, and Senator Fernando Saguer from Buenos Aires Province.

The Socialist Party is organized along less extreme lines than most Socialist parties, and does not have any

Binding Margin.

## ARGENTINA(Political)

## Subject: Political Parties and Groups

definite policy except that it is anti-personalist.

The Progressive Democratic Party is a small party which did much to block the influence of the Personalist Radical Party in the Cordoba elections last March. Ex-President Irigoyen made a great campaign in this province to secure the election of his own candidate for Governor and representative in Congress, but was defeated.

The Party in power, the Radical Antipersonalist Party, seems to be definitely blocked as far as any constructive legislation is concerned. It has the largest number of senators, though not a majority, and a fewer number of deputies than the personalists. None of the parties seem to get together on any issue, and it is problematical when this can be done.

The Alvear faction of the Radical Party is now in power, and Congress is unable to function on account of a deadlock. The Irigoyen faction is attempting to strengthen itself, and with considerable success is achieving its aims, in order to win the next presidential election. Their goal is the election of the ex-President or one of his satellites as President. Irigoyen is a man of little education, but has great personality; he is a leader of the masses, and they believe in him. If he is reelected he will probably enter strongly to the working man.

There appears to be no definite party programs, but it is simply a question of the "Ins" wanting to stay in and the "outs" wanting to get back in.

It is difficult to foretell the prospective future influence on the government. If Ex-President Irigoyen, who is 78 years of age lives long enough in order that he may reoccupy the Presidential chair in October 1928, then probably the country will again continue in the same path of chaos which marked the latter part of the past presidential régime.

There is some talk about General Agustín Justo, the present Minister of War, being the only man under the present government who has sufficient popularity to command the support of the two factions of the Radical Party, and win the next Presidential election.



G-2 REPORT

4-1 325 2657-4-75

1925

1907 OCT 15

SUBJECT POLITICAL-----ARGENTINA

(FOR INFORMATION DIGEST)

From ARGENTINA-----

No. 3514 Date September 18, 1925

Replying to No. Date OCT 15 1925 19

3020: Stability of Government.

Unity in ranks of political parties in power.

Political issues for many years centered in Argentina around the question of centralization versus federation. Since the definite triumph of the Federal principle it can scarcely be said that there have been any continuing issues on which the people have been consistently divided and to which the political parties have been committed.

There have been in late years political parties with greater or less degree of organization and effectiveness, but the differences are largely based on personalities rather than on issues.

Argentina has had a stable government for many years, and has been free from revolutionary movements than most other Latin-American powers. The last revolution was in 1890 when President Juarez Celman was forced to retire on account of inefficiency and graft, and he was succeeded by President Carlos Pellegrini. However as a general rule when a president is elected to office he completes his term.

The Radical Party is the strongest political party in Argentina and is now in power with Marcelo T. de Alvear as president of the Nation. He was selected by former president of the Nation, Hipólito Irigoyen (the real head of the party) who chose him as his successor. The Constitution forbids a president to succeed himself in office. Since Alvear's succession to office failing to follow the mandates as laid down by his predecessor, there has been a party split and at present there is now no party in Congress holding a balance of power due to impossibility to effect party coalitions. As a result there is a virtual stalemate in Congress in passing necessary legislation. Budgets have not been passed for several years and other needed legislation has not been touched. The above conditions are due purely to a conflict of the personalities of the President and ex-president rather than on party issues.

As a result of after war conditions there was an alarming growth of anarchistic propaganda particularly among Italian and Spanish laborers. Labor strikes frequently had the aspect of anarchistic movements which demanded extreme measures on the part of the government for their suppression. This condition, however, seems to have passed due to improved economic conditions throughout the country and labor unions now do not possess the strength they did two or three years ago.

There have been no armed revolutionary movements seeking to overthrow the government for many years.

Binding Margin.

G-2 Report

3020

ARGENTINA-----Political.

Subject: Stability of Government.

(a) Traditional aspects.

Argentina was discovered in 1508 by Juan Diez de Solís and Vicente Yañez Pinzon. In 1535 Don Pedro de Mendoza was sent out by the King of Spain, and in that year founded Buenos Aires. On May 25, 1810 the people rose against Spanish rule, and on July 9, 1816 Argentine independence was proclaimed. Between 1816 and 1852 a period of tyranny and civil wars ensued which included the time of Juan Manuel de Rosas. Government during this period was one of force, and all opposition was ruthlessly crushed. From 1829-1853 Rosas was absolute dictator, the government was unenlightened, commerce and trade stagnated, and immigration was discouraged. The Rosas' regime was ended by civil war, and Justo José de Urquiza became president.

The constitution of Argentina bears the date of May 15, 1853 with modifications in 1860, 1866 and 1898. Since Rosas' time there has been a more liberal exercise of power in Argentina.

From 1853 to 1861 Argentina was split in two factions, the confederation under Urquiza with the capital at Paraná, and Buenos Aires, which went its way as a separate state. This condition of affairs culminated in an armed conflict between the two in which the forces of the Confederation were defeated, and the province of Buenos Aires reentered the confederation. The capital of the republic was then transferred from Paraná to the city of Buenos Aires. Buenos Aires then became the leading province in the republic.

Friction between the Province of Buenos Aires and the remainder of the federation again led to civil war in 1880 on account of the dominating attitude of Buenos Aires. In the civil war the Buenos Aires forces were completely defeated. After 1880 great prosperity marked Argentina's development. The only revolution which took place was in 1890 when President Juárez Celman was put out of office on account of maladministration and graft, and for the remainder of his term he was succeeded by Vice President Pellegrini.

After Rosas' time up to 1880 there were two conflicting ideas in the government of Argentina, centralization vs. confederation. This divergence of opinion brought on civil wars, and a president's tenure of office during this period was naturally insecure. It was due to the fact that able men were elected to the presidency during this period that order was brought out of chaos and a strong government was finally established, and the president's office made secure. The revolution of 1890 was justified. It was not provoked by other men seeking the president's office, but in order to get rid of a bad president, who was causing a great deal of harm to the country.

Since President Pellegrini's time presidents have been duly elected to office, or vice-presidents have taken office due to the death of the president. A presidential office since that time has been stable.

From: M.A. Buenos Aires

Report # 3559

Nov. 30, 1925.

## ARGENTINA-----Political

Subject: Stability of Government.

(b) Trend of recent and current events.

The present administration under Dr. Marcelo T. de Alvear came into power in 1922 succeeding Señor Hipólito Irigoyen as the result of a national election. The important factors which bear on the stability of the administration in power are the unquestioned integrity of the President, and the elimination of graft in all departments of the government whenever possible. The country is enjoying an era of great development and prosperity, and the people are generally contented and have no cause for a revolution. Constructive legislation has been placed before Congress which would materially benefit the country, but so far most legislation has failed on account of a deadlock in Congress. In general the President is popular with the people.

(c) Radicalism.

As a result of after war conditions there was an alarming growth of anarchistic propaganda particularly among Italian laborers. Labor strikes had the aspect of anarchistic movements which demanded extreme measures on the part of the government for their suppression. However, this condition has passed due to improved economic conditions throughout the country, and labor unions do not possess the power they did two or three years ago.

The term applied to the leading party in Argentina "Radical Party" is in the American sense of the word a misnomer, as probably a better term would be according to our translation "progressive or liberal" party, and this party has nothing to do with radicalism.

There are no members of Congress at present representing parties of communistic or other "radical" tendencies.

(d) Armed revolutionary movements.

There have been no armed revolutionary movements, seeking to overthrow the government, for many years.

FOR OFFICIAL USE  
ONLY

AL-1  
20572-75  
9

BIC-28

G-2 Report

3600

ARGENTINA-----Political.

Subject: Political Issues and Problems.

(a) Important problems and issues requiring governmental recognition and action.

The regular Congressional sessions held between June 13 and September 30, 1925 were considered to be about the least productive legislative sessions held in the history of the country. Various official measures had been introduced and their consideration had been urged upon the legislature with unusual insistence. Most of the bills introduced were non-party bills of a constructive character, and of great importance to the nation, but they did not pass through Congress. The reason for the lack of results in the last regular session was due to the party split in the Radical Party, and Ex-President Irigoyen's followers blocked practically all legislation which was introduced.

Due to lack of results obtained in the ordinary sessions President Alvear has signed a decree calling extra sessions on November 23rd of this year. The following projects are the most important which will be considered at these extraordinary sessions:

Domestic Legislation.

The Budget. It is understood that the committee appointed by Congress to study the budget proposals of the Government, has finished its labours, and this in all probability will be the first measure to be considered by Congress. The present budget expires at the end of the current year, and without the necessary authority from Parliament, the salaries and expenses of the Administration for January cannot be paid, so doubtless this measure will be dealt with promptly.

The Rent Law. which prohibits landlords from raising the rents, expired last September, and will probably be brought in to force again.

The Banking Law was sent to Congress on the 30th of June 1924. This project, which has for its object the regulation of banking in Argentina, has not been despatched by the special commission appointed for that purpose, and it is therefore improbable that any definite decision will be arrived at during the extraordinary sessions. At present there are very few laws covering banking in Argentina.

Consolidation of the Government's debts to the Bank of the Nation.

This project was sent to Congress last July, and has for its object the consolidation of the debt which the Government has with the Bank of the Nation. Treasury letters to the value of 332,500,000 pesos have been discounted by the Bank of the Nation, and the Executive has solicited authorization to issue Government bonds to cover this sum. The bonds will be entitled "Internal Consolidation Bonds 1925" bearing interest of 5 1/2% payable semi-annually with an accumulated amortization of 4%. The fundamental basis of this proposal has been

From: M.A. Buenos Aires Report #3560

Nov. 14, 1925.

ARGENTINA-----Political

Subject: Political Issues and Problems.

Consolidation of the Government's debts to the Bank of the Nation. (Continued)

approved already. The project was modified so that the Bank of the Nation shall charge or give credit, in the Government's account with the bank, for any difference in the rate at which the bonds shall be issued, deducting the interest accumulated until the date of the issue, establishing, in exchange, that the bonds shall not be issued below 93%.

The proposal of the Executive was that the Bank of the Nation could, with the approval of the Executive, rediscount with the Caja de Conversion a sum equivalent to 30% of the consolidation bonds it held. The Parliamentary commission appointed to study the question advised Congress that "apart from the special sum allotted in the budget for the service of the bonds the extraordinary income not specially designated to any other object, and a sum equal to the annual surpluses, which may arise, shall be applied to the amortization of the bonds.

Law 11,289

This much discussed and unpopular pension scheme is one of the most urgent matters submitted to Congress. The Pension Law was under rediscussion, by the Chamber of Deputies, at the end of last year, but when Art.4 was submitted, which treated of the minimum benefits of the law, the ordinary and extraordinary pensions, the voluntary retirement of the subscribers and other aspects of the pension scheme, the Deputies suspended the discussion and the whole subject was left in abeyance. Meanwhile, the Senate vetoed the law and voted that the funds collected should be returned to the contributors within six months from the passing of the amended law. This Senate's proposal was therefore again submitted to the Deputies who appointed a special commission to study the matter and it submitted two proposals.

The majority advised that the veto of the Senate suspending the law could not be accepted; the minority approving the Senate's action completely. Congress is now invited to settle the question one way or the other.

Law 11,278. This law prohibits the payment of salaries except in moneda nacional (paper pesos) and was vetoed by the President on account of the difficulties which would arise in its application. The veto was duly considered by the committees of both Chambers and approved after certain changes had been made to obviate the difficulties which the Executive had pointed out. This law only required the final approval of both Chambers.

Petroleum Legislation.

This project has not been debated in either Chamber during the last regular sessions though its importance is paramount.

From: M.A .Buenos Aires

Refer "3560

Nov.30,1935.

## ARGENTINA-----Political

Subject: Political Issues and Problems.

Petroleum Legislation (continued)

This project is to be introduced to modernize the mining laws of the country in regard to petroleum. The oil industry has suffered greatly in the past in being handicapped with antiquated laws and the necessity for the passage of this legislation is great if the country is going to build up a large petroleum industry.

Cattle Census.

This proposal also has not been discussed though it is considered an urgent necessity in almost all quarters.

State Railway Legislation.

Congress will be requested to appropriate money for new extensions to lines and to finish extensions started, but which have not been completed due to lack of funds. Legislation will also be asked for to modernize the organic law of the State Railways, and to consolidate the debts of these railways.

Sanitation.

Congress will be asked to enlarge the work of sanitation and drainage in the capital, provinces and territories to combat malaria, infant mortality, tuberculosis, trachoma and other diseases.

Legislation bearing on Foreign Affairs.Philadelphia and Seville Exhibitions.

Congress is asked to sanction the participation of the Argentine Republic at these exhibitions.

League of Nations.

Congress is invited to approve of Argentina's adhesion to the League of Nations, and to authorize the payment of its contributions.

Foreign Missions.

Congress will be asked to elevate the Argentine Legations in Mexico, also Italy to the rank of embassies.

Treaties.

Congress will be requested to ratify the treaties and agreements made by the Labor Conference in Washington in 1919 and Geneva in 1920.

G-3 3560

G-2 Report

3600

ARGENTINA-----Political

Subject: Political Issues and Problems.

Boundary Treaties.

Congress will be requested to ratify the treaties entered into with Bolivia and Uruguay regarding boundaries.

G-2 Report

4-1 1926 2657-L-75  
10  
3700

ARGENTINA----- Political

Subject: Political Parties and Groups.

JAN 22 1926

It is reported that an attempt is being made to bring about a combination, if not an actual amalgamation, of the political parties opposed to the Radicals. The initiative in this direction appears to have emanated from the Conservative Party of the Province of Buenos Aires. This Party abstained from voting in the Provincial Governmental election on December 6, 1925, alleging irregularities in the matter of the electoral register. The result naturally was a walk over for the Radicals. The fact that the Conservatives had voted in some at least, of the municipal elections held a week or two before in the Province indicates to the uninstructed observer, a certain degree of inconsistency. Be that as it may, it is reasonable to infer that the Buenos Aires Provincial Conservatives esteem that in order to put up any effective opposition to the predominant Radical Party throughout the Republic--- particularly in view of the imminence of the March elections (when one half of the membership of the Chamber of Deputies had to be renewed) a combination of all non-Radical groups against the common enemy is desirable. Overtures in this sense seem already to have been made with some measure of success to the "Liberals" of Mendoza, and the "Autonomists" of Santiago del Estero.

It is considered possible that the non-Radical groups in Entre Rios, Corrientes, Salta, Cordoba, San Luis and elsewhere will fall into line sooner or later. So that if the necessary degree of cohesion is eventually attained the political forces of the country will consist of Radicals and Conservatives, and, of course, the inevitable Socialists (whose effective strength is confined to the Federal Capital). The legislative achievements of the National Congress have in recent times been insignificant and in some cases actually prejudicial (e.g. pensions law and minors' working hours legislation). The public are beginning to realize this, and it is to be hoped that the aspiration to create a homogenous Party out of a number of heterogeneous groups will be based on some sort of appeal to the intelligence of the electorate.  
(From "Review of the River Plate" Dec. 18, 1925)

From: M.A. Buenos Aires Report #3574

Dec. 23, 1925.



OFFICE CHIEF OF STAFF  
UNITED STATES

4-1 1926 2657-L-75-11

APR 16

3100-REIMEN

G-2 REPORT

ARGENTINA-----POLITICAL.

Subj et: Present Executive and Cabinet.

(b) Cabinet.

APR 14 1926

A divergence of opinion between the Minister of War and his colleague of Finance almost developed during the third week in March into a "Cabinet crisis". The "crisis" has been averted, however, and the two Ministers concerned have arrived at a presumably mutually satisfactory compromise, after discussing the situation several times with the President of the Republic. Briefly, the question at issue was one of procedure regarding expenditure incurred or to be incurred by the Ministry of War on materials required for the reinforcement of the national armament, in terms of a comparatively recently authorizing Law. Apparently the Finance Minister (Dr. Molina) considered that the War Minister (General Justo) was going too fast in incurring expenditure and simultaneously that the pre-requisite of a specific Cabinet authorization of each item of expenditure was in danger of being neglected. It was announced on March 17 that as a result of separate conferences held by each of the two Ministers with President Alvear, General Justo has been able to adjust his plans to meet the views of Doctor Molina alike in the amount of the expenditure to be made annually, and in the matter of the specific Cabinet authorizations required for each armament contract.

The expenditures on the war materials to date have been guarded with great secrecy.

From: *R. W. D. ...* Report #3600  
M.A. Buenos Aires.

March 23, 1926.

G-2 Report

CHIEF OF STAFF  
JUN 14 1926  
4-1 1926 2657-L-75  
3600 12  
JUN 14 1926  
JUN 14 1926

POLITICAL-----ARGENTINA

Subject: Political Issues and Problems.

2 WE. JUN 11 1926

2657-L-75(9)

Congress was called into extraordinary session on November 23, 1925 to act on important legislation submitted to it by the Executive (Report #3580). This extraordinary session, up to April 7th, had acted on no legislation whatever, most of the congressmen being absent canvassing their own districts for the coming elections, or no reason whatever. This non-functioning of Congress has been going on since the split in the Radical Party occurred about 2 years ago. The old Radical Party now is divided between the followers of Ex-President Irigoyen and President Alvear, and it seems to be the policy of the Irigoyenistas to block all legislation in order to discredit the present administration.

On April 7th, President Alvear called a meeting of his Cabinet, and issued two decrees one of which withdrew the agenda submitted to Congress for consideration in the extraordinary session, and the other declared the 1925 Budget Law (with slight variations, the same as 1923) in force provisionally until such time as Congress sanctions a new Budget.

This practically puts to an end the extraordinary session of Congress. The law provides that Congress will meet May 1st of each year, but this meeting will probably be postponed for some time.

From: *R. J. ...* Report #3616  
M.A. Buenos Aires.

May 10, 1926.

G-2 Report

POLITICAL - ARGENTINA

Subject: Stability of Government.

(b) Stability of Government.

Present Situation.

The present situation in Argentina since the inauguration of Dr. Raul Alfonsín as President in October 1983 has been marked by an almost constant deadlock as far as any important legislation is concerned. There are five different parties in Congress of various strengths, but none of them are able to command a majority, and there seems to be no possibility of any party coalition except of a temporary nature. Although the President has two more years of office ahead of him, little can be expected in important legislation during the remainder of his term of office. The present situation is due to a split in the Radical Party which occurred shortly after Dr. Alfonsín became President.

Stability of Administration.

Dr. Alfonsín is considered weak and has not near the following that ex-President Irigoyen had, and although the President has been popular with the upper classes he is now constantly losing prestige and strength with the whole people. Although this situation is very harmful to the country, and the better people are disgusted with it, it does not seem to threaten the stability of the Government as far as any forceful overthrow of the Government is concerned. There seems to be no rumors of any steps to be taken to impeach Dr. Alfonsín in order to put Vice President Gonzalez (an Irigoyen man) in the Presidential office, nor does such a thing seem probable in spite of the fact that from time to time protests have been made by Alfonsín's opponents as to his practices in the functioning of the presidential office.

g-2 Report

Argentina.....Political

Subject- Political Issues and Problems

- (a) Important problems and issues requiring Governmental recognition and action.

RECEIVED 6/27/27 1927

The Executive Power in November issued a decree convoking congress to Extraordinary session to be inaugurated December 1st to consider the following subjects-

Budget for 1927

Taxation Laws and Supplementary Credits

Amendment of electoral laws 8130 and 9129 relating to the compilation of the electoral register

General legislation relating to cooperative societies and loans to same.

Consolidation of the debt to the Banco de la Nacion.

The first and most important matter to be taken up will be the budget. Since 1923 Congress has passed no new budget law but has renewed the 1923 budget each year with slight modifications. The Chamber has voted to hold daily sessions in order to consider the budget but the decision has been repeatedly nullified by the absence of a quorum and so far nothing has been accomplished. The budget committee of the Chamber of Deputies has already completed its study for this years budget which amounts in all to about \$689,290,875.

It is highly improbable that anything of importance will be accomplished during the present extraordinary session of congress and the results will be as little as have all other sessions during the last few years.

From.....  
M.A.Argentina.

Report No 3735

Date December 13, 1926

3700.

Political Parties and Groups.

(a) Importance of Party Organization in Political Life of Country.

There are no political parties here as in the United States. The conclusion drawn after three months study is that politics are more a Provincial than a National organization. The old Conservative party which ruled the country till 1916 when the Radicals came into power, has been split up and in the various Provinces is known under different names. For National Elections the various Provincial parties attempt to combine for or against some particular candidate. In 1922 some eight or ten of these Provincial parties combined in one and called themselves the National Concentration party, for the purpose of defeating the Radical Government as represented by Irigoyen. - No other issue was involved. This year it is the same, as shown below.

The party in power has considerable influence because there exists a system of "To the Victor belong the spoils". There are no civil service positions, and all office holders from top to bottom are appointed directly or indirectly by the party in power.

It might be mentioned here that the cultured elements as a rule are indifferent to politics, and do not aspire to political office. The standard of the law maker in National Congress is far below that in the United States.

(b) Analysis of Leading parties and Groups.

The oldest party is "Los Conservadores" which still in the Province of Buenos Aires has quite a large following, and retains that name. In other Provinces the name has changed due to local conditions or leaders. This party may be regarded as the remnant of the first party organization in this country. It was in power under different names till 1916, when the "Radical" party obtained the Presidency. The Conservatives never had any platform as we know it in the United States. Their policies have been shaped by their leaders, but in spite of such undefined nature of the party, it gave the country some very good rulers, as Mitre, Roca and Saenz Pena.

Their actual and prospective power in the present Government is small. They have a considerable following in the Province of Buenos Aires, but even there they are out voted by the Radical Personalistas two to one.

The Conservatives of Buenos Aires, together with the Demócrata party of Corrientes; the Autonomistas of Corrientes; the Liberals of Corrientes, San Luis, Mendoza, San Juan and Tucuman; and the Union Provincialistas of Salta, realizing this condition convened in Corrientes on April 2nd 1927, and adopted the following resolution:-

A. To join and face the coming presidential campaign by forming a National Party that shall forget all past discords, and fight towards a successful formation of a modern popular and democratic political organ.

B. Denounce by all legitimate means any candidate arising from the Radical Personalistas Party, because it is a menace to all national development.

C. To proclaim no candidate for Presidency or Vice Presidency of the Republic by any of the individual parties.

D. To support a platform drawn up against personalism and so long as its members guarantee our institutions.

E. Submit a program on the basis enumerated below to a Convention that will be held:-

1. Following re-formations of the Constitution:

a) Definition and limits of the rights of Federal Intervention in the Provinces.

b) Method of Election and period of term of the Senators.

c) Judgment by members of the Federal Tribunal of the titles of the Deputies and Senators to seats in the Congress of the Nation.

d) Method of naming the members of the National and Federal Justice.

2. Constant guard on the rights and guarantees given by the National Constitution and the Provincial Constitutions.

3. Provincialization of those National Territories that comply with the requirements of the law.

4. Consolidation of the floating debt.

5. Balancing of the Budgets national, provincial and municipal.

6. Normalization of the monetary regimen.

7. Gradual decrease of the national internal taxation till their suppression.

8. Institution of the Tribunal of Accounts.

9. Limits to the Legislative initiative in matters of public expenditures.

10. Efficient protection to national industry.

11. Development of agriculture and live stock industry, always with "buy from those who buy from us" in mind.

12. Division of large estates.

13. Organized plan of hygiene to be carried out in epidemic ridden zones.

14. Legislation that will insure progress both moral and material, and ways of solving conflicts between capital and labor.

15. Revision of laws for the development of primary education.

16. Law of obligatory insurance for employees.

17. Official development of European immigration and distribution of sums in the most necessary part of the Republic, and reformation of the law of citizenship.

18. a) Construction of large national roads with foundation of communication with and between provinces and territories.

b) Give a permanent federal allowance to the provinces for the construction of roads throughout their respective territory in substitution for the sums invested directly by the nation for this purpose.

c) Assign to the provinces through which run National Railroads a proportion of the sums collected by law No. 5315.

19. Lowering the cost of transportation.

20. Organized plan of the public works over the country.

F. Call a Convention to which all the parties represented in the Conference shall be invited and other mutual forces organized with a view to carrying out completely and thoroughly the decisions sanctioned.

This convention will be formed by delegates of the local parties and their number shall not exceed five from each group, and shall assemble in the city of Coroba on the 31st of May of 1927. The delegates to this conference form an organizing Committee, the president being authorized to take steps towards the realization of the ends prescribed.

The practical effect of the above is nil. The same procedure was taken in 1923, when the Election was over the Concentration Party again split up into their Provincial parties, and doubtless the same will happen this year. In view of that, no discussion is made of the different sections above. They are published for consumption by the voters. The only issue in the next Presidential election is Irigoyen.

The Radical Party came into existence in 1890 as a healthy reaction against scandals and continual abuses in the administration of President Suarez Celman, also against the lack of any constitution assuring an effective and free ballot. There occurred an active revolution and Celman was ousted. The motto adopted by the party was "Free and true ballot boxes and Administrative Morality". They did not secure new electoral laws till 1912, during the term of President Roque Saenz Peña. Secret ballots and compulsory voting was the main point in the election reforms. The strength of the Radical Party was immediately evidenced, and in the Presidential campaign of 1916 President Irigoyen carried the country by a large majority. President Irigoyen immediately on coming into power set up an individual form of Government far worse than those he had fought against for thirty years. Before the end of his term many staunch radicals were turning from him. He did however hold them together for the elections of 1922 in which the Radical candidate Alvear was successful. Soon after the elections however, Irigoyen saw that Alvear would not be his puppet and then there was a definite split. The laboring class are very strong for Irigoyen, while the cultured and professional members of the Radical party have gone with Alvear to form the Anti-Personalist Party. It is their aim to return to the principal of the original party as opposed to personalism, as typified by Irigoyen, and to prevent the return to the Presidency of Irigoyen, or any candidate he might select.

The Anti-Personalistas convened on April 30th, 1937, and announced the following as their platform:-

1. Direct election of the National Senators, and modification of the election laws now in force, in order to give more representation to the minority in the election of the National Deputies.
2. Reforms to the Budget law.
3. Limitation of the Legislative initiative as regards public expenditures.
4. The passing of a law, an amendment to the Articles Nos. 5 and 8 of the Constitution, defining limitations to the rights of the Federal Power to intervene in the Provinces.
5. Reform of the law of Accountancy, and the creation of a Tribunal of Accounts to control the expenditure of public funds.
6. Adequate protection of present national industries, and facilities for the establishment of new ones.
7. Investigation and revision of the customs.
8. Encouragement of small property holdings; laws for splitting up large estates.
9. Law to protect the homes of the laboring classes against debt.
10. Reform of the Mining Code and encouragement of the steel industry.
11. Cooperation of agricultural products and credit. Establishment of an Agricultural Bank.
12. Establishment of facilities for the transportation of national products, by means of fixed tariffs, on water and land.
13. The passing of a General Law to take over land near to railway stations, or navigable rivers and canals; and to re-distribute it in small lots, to encourage colonization.
14. Grant facilities to the employees and workmen of the nation to purchase their own houses, by means of credit given by the Banco Hipotecario Nacional.
15. Encouragement of the construction of cheap houses, and an increase in the sums destined for the purpose.
16. Provincialization of National Territories, and amendment of the law in force.
17. Encouragement of the production, and the growth of wealth, of the Provinces, preparatory to the materialization of an organized plan of Public Works throughout the nation.
18. Reform of the Irrigation Laws, and the assignment of special funds for the purpose of building aqueducts, which will assure the development and progress of the interior of the Republic.



18. Sanction of an Insurance Law
19. Creation of Special Tribunals to intervene into all the cases and conflicts between labor and employers.
20. Social Legislation which will include the resolutions of the International Conference of Work which base on the moral and material well-being of the workers, in accordance with the national rules.
21. Measures to assure the permanency of their posts to public employees.
22. Organized plan to cope with the diseases now current in the country.
23. The passing of a law to regulate the organization and functioning of the political parties with an essentially democratic and impersonal basis.
24. Reform of the Pension Laws affecting railway employees. Railway Register.
25. Encouragement of the merchant marine service, and of civil aviation.
26. Reform of the national laws governing civil service pensions.
27. Law affecting wines and sugar.
28. Road-System Law.
29. Protection and encouragement of land cultivation.
30. Development of public instruction, primary, industrial, and commercial.
31. Establishment of a central market in Buenos Aires, and other large centres, and organized distribution of all produce coming direct from the producer.
32. Reform of the Code of Military Justice, establishing impartial and just penalties.
33. Reform of the Laws governing naturalization and immigration.
34. Establishment of foreign markets for the disposal of Argentine produce.
35. Definite petroleum laws.

The Socialist Party was organized in 1900 and has made headway in Buenos Aires only. After the reform of the electoral laws it has had about 20 Deputies and 3 Senators in the National Congress. Among the items in its platform is the reform of the Constitution, especially as to Intervention by the Executive in the Provinces, Election of President by Congress, Parliamentary representation of territories, separation of Church and State, Parliamentary control of foreign relations, divorce law and civil and political rights for women.

In the several college the estimated strength of the parties is given as follows:-

Conservatives and others .....	28
Radical - Personalists .....	180
Radical - Anti-Personalists ....	26
Socialists .....	22

### Important Figures

Benigno Moreno of the Conservative Party of Buenos Aires, was instrumental in the Conservative going with the other parties at Cordoba on April 2nd. He is a descendant of one of Argentina's illustrious men who was secretary of the first Committee of Government of Argentina in 1810. Moreno was educated in Buenos Aires, where he received his degrees of Advocate. Later he lived in La Plata where he practiced his profession and went in for politics. In 1905 he was appointed Secretary and Professor of Civil Law in the Law Faculty. In 1907 the Government commissioned him to inspect the harbor of La Plata, and to visit the Patagonian ports with a view to establishing local customs-houses. Some years later he was named Minister of Public Works, and Minister of Government in the Cabinet of the Province of Buenos Aires, and in 1913 he was elected National Deputy. He has also edited several works.

Julio Roca (Sketch given under 3210-a and in Who's who) He is the head of the Democratic party of Cordoba, and he issued the invitations to the other Provincial Parties for the Conference in Cordoba on April 2nd.

Ramón J. Cárcano was born in 1860 in the city of Cordoba. In the year 1881 he took the degree of advocate at the University, and in 1884 he was elected Deputy in the National Congress where he gave special attention to questions of education. He resigned in 1886 and accepted the position of Minister in the Provincial Government of Cordoba; in 1887 he was made Director-General of Railways and Telegraphs; and in 1890 the party of Juárez Celman, to which he belonged, broke up and Cárcano retired to private life. After some time he was recalled to official positions, and was elected Governor of the province of Cordoba; in 1913 he was chosen Deputy and was re-elected in 1916. He is at present the Governor of the Province of Cordoba, which has the reputation of having the best Provincial Government.

### RADICAL PERSONALISTAS

Hipolito Irigoyen was born in Buenos Aires about 1856, where he was educated. Later he read law at the University, but feeling no vocation for a legal career he took up agriculture and also devoted his attention to politics. In 1873 he was appointed Police Captain of the Eighth Ward of Buenos Aires, in 1878 he was elected a member of the Provincial Legislature of Buenos Aires and in 1881 he became a member of the National Chamber of Deputies. About this time he abandoned active participation in politics because the Autonomista Party to which he belonged, had opposed the formation of a Federal District. He was again in the political limelight in the Revolution of 1880, when he was chosen to take the important post of Chief of Police of Buenos Aires. After this uprising which was partly successful, he carried out in 1893 a revolution in which the Provincial Government was completely overthrown. In 1905 in the Revolution against the National Government, he is said to have shown much ability, though the revolt was crushed, the party gained strength. During the Presidency of Roque Sáenz Peña he took an important part in the revision of the electoral Law, making it a free, universal, secret and obligatory suffrage. The effects of this law were seen at once in the elections of 1913, and four years later in 1916 the Radicals won by a large majority, and Irigoyen was elected President, and assumed office on October 12, 1916. Throughout

Public Torallo was born in 1868 in the Province of Buenos Aires, and took his degree of Advocate at the University of Buenos Aires in the year 1894. He joined the Radical Party in its earliest stages, and when still very young took part in three revolutions, in 1890, 1893 and 1904. After that he retired from politics till 1918 when Urquiza, his former chief, invited him to take the place of Minister of Public Works in the cabinet. He also acted as Minister of Finance and Agriculture on several occasions.

Delfer Del Valle (Sketch under 3310 and in Who's Who  
card File.)

RADICAL ANTI-PERSONALISTAS.

Leopoldo Melo, who was nominated President of the Anti-  
Personalista ticket in April 1937. (Sketch under 3510 and in  
Theo's The card file.)

Angel Gallardo (Sketch given under 8810-b and in Who's Who card file.)

Michael Susini (Sketch given under 3310, and in Who's Who card file.)

Vicente Gallo was born in the year 1873, in the province of Tucuman where he received his primary education. Later he went to the University in Buenos Aires, where he obtained the degrees of Advocate and Dr. of Laws. Since his youth he had been a strong supporter of the Radical Party and in 1898 he resigned the position of Secretary to the Governor when it was offered him by Governor Bernardo Irigoyen, because he would not serve under a chief who did not hold Radical views. He has been Secretary of the National Committee and President of the Buenos Aires Committee of the Radical Party, and has held high office. In 1912 he was elected Deputy. In 1916 he was re-elected and in 1918 was chosen Senator for the Capital with a large majority of votes. During April 1927 he was nominated as Vice-President of the Anti-Personalistas ticket.

Tomás Le Braton was born in Buenos Aires in the year 1868 where he received his education first at the National College and later at the University, where he took his Degree of Doctor of Laws in the year 1891. He took special interest in patent and trade-marks, and is a recognized authority on the subject. In 1891 he was sent abroad on a mission to find an important official Royal map with which it was hoped to establish Argentina's rights to certain territory claimed by Brazil, in which he was highly successful, though his findings proved that the land belonged to Brazil.

In 1904 he was Argentina's representative to the Industrial Property Congress in Berlin. In 1908 he was delegate for Argentina at the Stockholm Congress for Protection of Artistic and Literary Property. In 1920 he was a member of the

Administrative Commission of Lands and Colonies. He was a strong supporter of the Radical Party, and in the year 1914 was elected National Deputy. During 1915, 1916 and 1917 he was a member of the Finance Committee. In 1918 he was re-elected for the period ending 1923, but had to resign in order to take up the post of Ambassador to the United States. After this post he became Minister of Agriculture. He resigned this post on August 31st, 1925. His resignation was caused by the President's refusal to intervene in the Government of the Province of Buenos Aires.

Socialists

Juan B. Justo (Sketch under 3819 and Who's Who.)

Antonio Tomase (Sketch under 3819 and Who's Who.)

Sources:

Daily Newspapers.

Argentines of Today- by Parker

Archives of the "La Nación".

Report No. 3787

Buenos Aires, April 29th, 1937.

  
C. T. Richardson  
Major G. S. M. A.

4-1  
2657-1-75-1  
SECTION 301 UNLIMITED  
CIRCULATION 14

POLITICAL ISSUES AND PROBLEMS

1960.

General:

RECEIVED G/2 W. O. JUN 23 1967

As noted elsewhere, practically no legislative legislation of any kind has been passed by the National Congress during the five years of this administration, due to the Irigoyenist block in the Chamber of Deputies.

Now the presidential campaign (although elections are still ten months off) is getting underway and it is doubtful whether any of the problems cited below will receive serious consideration this year.

( ) Important Problems and Issues Requiring Governmental Recognition and Action:

The League of Nations: This question is whether or not Argentina will become a member of the League of Nations. The history of the Argentine association with the League has been given in another chapter. This problem has no relation to the maintenance of internal and public peace or order. The Argentine joining the League would advance her position with some of the European Nations. In view of the fact that the League of Nations excludes from its supervision such matters as the Monroe Doctrine; it cannot be seen how it could be affected by the relationship of the Argentine and the United States, should the former join the League, except it would bring her closer to European Nations. The President at each session of Congress has advocated Congress taking some action in the matter; in his message delivered on May 18th, he stated "The Executive again invites Congress to decide on adhering to the League".

Bolivian Boundaries Problem: On July 5th, 1923, Bolivia and Argentina signed a treaty settling a question of boundary between Bolivia and Argentina. There were no vital considerations involved, simply outlining the boundary in order that the matter might be settled. The delay in this problem has meant some small inconvenience caused in the Province of Salta. It has caused no effect whatever on the peace and order of the country and has no international aspects whatever. The matter has been before Congress now for two years. There is no objection to the treaty but simply due to dilatory tactics and the Irigoyenist block no action has been taken on this item. It was mentioned in the presidential address of May 18, and action was requested.

Project to Amend the Banking Laws: To supervise more closely all banking institutions. The Ministry of Finance to keep a Register in which will be entered: Name of firm, Character, Nationality of Capital, Capital Authorized, Reserve fund, Latest balance sheet previous to registration, and such other data as may from time to time be required. Certain conditions are imposed, for instance: Bank must have a paid up capital of not less than a million pesos m/n if Argentine, and a million dollars if foreign. Restrictions are placed as to gold reserve, national currency to be held in cash, and relation with "Banco de la Nación" specified.

It is believed this is a much needed reform. Too much liberality now exists in banking laws and to that is attributed many of the financial troubles of business houses. The Presi-

3800.

ment in some instances. Every detailed bill on the subject, introduced into Congress in any of this year, has in effect been taken out of action.

Consolidation of National Debt: The "Non-consolidated" debt of the Republic amounts to approximately \$80 million, exclusive of the State Railways. The last Congress authorized a bond issue of 145 million pesos to consolidate the State Railways' debt up to the end of 1927; there has been contracted some 50 million since then. There was submitted to the Special Session 1928 of the National Congress a bill by the President to consolidate some \$20 million debt. The committee's report is favorable, but out to the legislative offices of the Congress nothing has been passed. The President again this year requested Congress to take action.

Taxation: The whole subject of taxation is in need of legislation. Practically all the income of the country is from customs and small internal taxes, like si licettes, etc. The land taxes are very small, and the country has no income tax law. There is also with reference to taxation a further problem, the double taxation, national and provincial. Products produced, or imported, in one Province are taxed in each other province they may enter and if they come into the Federal Capital a national tax is imposed. The President in his message of May 18th, to the National Congress, stated that the intensity of this problem has reached a disquieting proportion.


Breaking up of Estates: The problem of breaking up the large estates and dividing up the agricultural lands. It is estimated that the cultivated lands of this country are owned by 10% of the population, and the others involved in agriculture make little more than a living wage. As has happened in other countries it is only a question of time before this problem will solve itself in a revolutionary manner, unless legislative action is taken. Combined with the idea to encourage immigration and colonization there was introduced in 1923 a project imposing a very high taxation on large agricultural holdings. Like all bills which tend to tax land no action has been taken by Congress.

Roads: The lack of roads in the country is an item which tends to retard the progress of economical development. In 1924 a road construction bill was introduced into Congress. Any such bill naturally carries with it a tax on the province and property benefited. That land tax together with the dilatory attitude in Congress during the past few years has prevented any action thereon.

Sources:  
The First National Bank of Boston.  
Commercial Attache.  
President's Message to Congress.  
Previous reports from this office.

Report No. 3801

Buenos Aires, May 31st, 1927.

  
C. T. Richardson  
Major U.A. & F.C.O.

## ARGENTINA----- (CONTINUED)

Subject: Political Parties and Groups

(a) Importance of Party Organization in Political Life of Country.

There are no political parties here as in the United States. The conclusion drawn after three months study is that politics are more of a Provincial than a National organization. The old Conservative party which ruled the country till 1916 when the Radicals came into power, has been split up and in the various provinces is known under different names. For National Elections the various Provincial parties attempt to combine for or against some particular candidate. In 1922 some eight or ten of these Provincial parties combined in one and called themselves the National Concentration party, for the purpose of defeating the Radical Government as represented by Irigoyen. No other issue was involved. This year it is the same, as shown below.

The party in power has considerable influence because there exists a system of "To the Victor belong the spoils". There are no civil service positions, and all office holders from top to bottom are appointed directly or indirectly by the party in power.

It might be mentioned here that the cultured elements as a rule are indifferent to politics, and do not aspire to political office. The standard of the law maker in National Congress is far below that in the United States.

(b) Analysis of Leading Parties and Groups.

The oldest party is "Los Conservadores" which still in the Province of Buenos Aires has quite a large following, and retains that name. In other provinces the name has changed due to local conditions or leaders. This party may be regarded as the remnant of the first party organization in this country. It was in power under different names till 1916, when the "Radical" party obtained the Presidency. The Conservatives never had any platform as we know it in the United States. Their policies have been shaped by their leaders, but in spite of such undefined nature of the party, it gave the country some very good rulers, as Mitre, Roca and Saenz Peña.

Their actual and prospective power in the present Government is small. They have a considerable following in the Province of Buenos Aires, but even there they are out voted by the Radical Personalistas two to one.

The Conservatives of Buenos Aires, together with the Democratas party of Cordoba; the Autonomistas of Corrientes; the Liberals of Corrientes, San Luis, Mendoza, San Juan and Tucuman; and the Union Provincialists of Salta, realizing this condition convened in Cordoba on April 2nd. 1927, and adopted the following resolution:-



ARGENTINA----- OFFICIAL

Subject: Political Parties and Groups:

(b) Analysis of Leading Parties and Groups. (Contd.)

A. To join and face the coming presidential campaign by forming a National Party that shall forget all past discords, and fight towards a successful formation of a modern popular and democratic organ.

B. Denounce by all legitimate means any candidate arising from the Radical Personalistas Party, because it is a menace to all national developments.

C. To proclaim no candidates for Presidency or Vice Presidency of the Republic by any of the individual parties.

D. To support a platform drawn up against personalism and so long as its members guarantee our institutions.

E. Submit a program on the basis enumerated below to a Convention that will be held:-

1. Following reformatations of the Constitution:

a) Definition and limits of the rights of Federal Intervention in the Provinces.

b) Method of Election and period of term of the Senators.

c) Judgment by members of the Federal Tribunal of the titles of the Deputies and Senators to seats in the Congress of the Nation.

d) Method of naming the members of the National and Federal Justice.

2. Constant guard on the rights and guarantees given by the National Constitution and the Provincial Constitutions.

3. Provincialization of those National Territories that comply with the requirements of the law.

4. Consolidation of the floating debt.

5. Balancing of the Budgets national, provincial and Municipal.

6. Normalization of the monetary regimen.

7. Gradual decrease of the national internal taxation till their suppression.

From B.A. Argentina.

Report No. 3787.

April 29, 1927.

ANEXOTTA----- CLINICAL

Subject: Political Parties and Groups:

(b) Analysis of Leading Parties and Groups. (Contd.)

8. Institution of the Tribunal of Accounts.
9. Limits to the Legislative initiative in matters of public expenditures.
10. Efficient protection to national industry.
11. Development of agriculture and live stock industry, always with "buy from those who buy from us" in mind.
12. Division of large estates.
13. Organized plan of hygiene to be carried out in epidemic ridden zones.
14. Legislation that will insure progress both moral and material, and ways of solving conflicts between capital and labor.
15. Revision of laws for the development of primary education.
16. Law of obligatory insurance for employees.
17. Official development of European immigration and distribution of same in the most necessary parts of the Republic, and reformation of the law of citizenship.
18. a) Construction of large national roads with foundation as communication with and between provinces and territories.  
b) Give a permanent federal allowance to the provinces for the construction of roads throughout their respective territory in substitution for the sums invested directly by the nation for this purpose.  
c) Assign to the provinces through which run National Railroads a proportion of the sums collected by law No. 5315.
19. Lowering the cost of transportation.
20. Organized plan of the public works over the country.
- F. Call a Convention to which all the parties represented in the Conference shall be invited and other mutual forces organized with a view to carrying out completely and throughly the decisions sanctioned.

This convention will be formed by delegates of the local

From L.A. Argentina.

Report No. 3787.

April 29, 1927.

## ARGENTINA-----POLITICAL

Subject: Political Parties and Groups:

(b) Analysis of Leading Parties and Groups. (Contd.)

Parties and their number shall not exceed five from each group and shall assemble in the city of Cordoba on the 31st. of May of 1927. The delegates to this conference form an organizing Committee, the president being authorized to take steps towards the realization of the ends prescribed.

The practical effect of the above is nil. The same procedure was taken in 1922, when the Election was over the Concentration Party again split up into their provincial parties, and doubtless the same will happen this year. In view of that, no discussion is made of the different sections above. They are published for consumption by the voters. The only issue in the next Presidential election is Irigoyen.

The Radical Party came into existence in 1890 as a healthy reaction against scandals and continued abuses in the administration of President Juarez Celman, and also against the lack of any condition assuring an effective and free ballot. There occurred an active revolution and Celman was ousted. The motto adopted by the party was "Free and true ballot boxes and Administrative Morality". They did not secure new electoral laws till 1912, during the term of President Roque Saenz Peña. Secret ballots and compulsory voting was the main point in the election reforms. The strength of the Radical Party was immediately evidenced, and in the Presidential campaign of 1916 President Irigoyen carried the country by a large majority. President Irigoyen immediately on coming into power set up an individual form of Government far worse than those he had fought against for thirty years. Before the end of his term many staunch radicals were turning from him. He did however hold them together for the elections of 1922 in which the Radical candidate Alvear was successful. Soon after the elections, however, Irigoyen saw that Alvear would not be his puppet and then there was a definite split. The laboring class are very strong for Irigoyen, while the cultured and professional members of the Radical Party have gone with Alvear to form the Anti-Personalistas Party. It is their aim to return to the principal of the original party as opposed to personalism, as typified by Irigoyen, and to prevent the return to the Presidency of Irigoyen, or any candidate he might select.

The Anti-Personalistas convened on April 20th, 1927, and announced the following as their platform:-

1. Direct election of the National Senators, and modification of the election laws now in force, in order to give more representation to the minority in the election of the National Deputies.

From M.A. Argentina.

Report No. 3787.

April 29, 1927.

ARGENTINA----- CHITONI

Subject: Political Parties and Groups:

(b) Analysis of Leading Parties and Groups. (Contd.)

2. Reforms to the Budget Law.
3. Limitation of the Legislative initiative as regards public expenditures.
4. The passing of a law, an amendment to the Articles Nos. 5 and 6 of the Constitution, defining limitations to the rights of the Federal Power to intervene in the Provinces.
5. Reform of the law of Accountancy, and the creation of a Tribunal of Accounts to control the expenditure of public funds.
6. Adequate protection of present national industries, and facilities for the establishment of new ones.
7. Investigation and revision of the customs.
8. Encouragement of small property holdings; laws for splitting up large estates.
9. Law to protect the homes of the laboring classes against debt.
10. Reform of the Mining Code and encouragement of the steel industry.
11. Cooperation of agricultural products and credit. Establishment of an Agricultural Bank.
12. Establishment of facilities for the transportation of national products, by means of fixed tariffs, on water and land.
13. The passing of a general Law to take over land near to railway stations, or navigable rivers and canals; and to re-distribute it in small lots, to encourage colonization.
14. Grant facilities to the employees and workmen of the nation to purchase their own houses, by means of credit given by the Banco Hipotecario Nacional.
15. Encouragement of the construction of cheap houses, and an increase in the sums destined for the purpose.
16. Provincialization of National Territories, and amendment of the law in force.
17. Encouragement of the production, and the growth

From N.A. Argentina.

Report No. 3787. April 29, 1927.

ARGENTINA-----POLITICAL

Subject: Political Parties and Groups:

(b) Analysis of Leading Parties and Groups. (Contd.)

of wealth, of the Provinces, preparatory to the materialization of an organized plan of Public Works throughout the nation.

18. Reform of the Irrigation Laws, and the assignment of special funds for the purpose of building aqueducts, which will assure the development and progress of the interior of the Republic.

19. Sanction of an Insurance Law.

20. Creation of special tribunals to investigate into all the cases and conflicts between labor and employers.

21. Social Legislation which will adopt the decisions of the International Conference of Work which bear on the moral and material well-being of the workers, in accordance with the national rules.

22. Measures to assure the permanency of their posts to public employees.

23. Organized plan to cope with the diseases now current in the country.

24. The passing of a law to regulate the organization and functioning of the political parties with an essentially democratic and impersonal basis.

25. Reform of the Pension Laws affecting railway employees. Railway Register.

26. Encouragement of the merchant marine service, and of civil aviation.

27. Reform of the national laws governing civil service pensions.

28. Law affecting wines and sugar.

29. Road-System Law.

30. Protection and encouragement of land cultivation.

31. Development of public instruction, primary, industrial, and commercial.

32. Establishment of a central market in Buenos Aires, and other large centres, and organized distribution of all

From M.A. Argentina. Report No. 3737. April 29, 1927.

CONFIDENTIAL

Subject: Political Parties and Groups:

(b) Analysis of leading parties and groups. (Contd.)

produce coming direct from the producer.

33. Reform of the Code of Military Justice, establishing impartial and just penalties.

34. Reform of the Laws governing naturalization and immigration.

35. Establishment of foreign markets for the disposal of Argentine produce.

36. Definite petroleum laws.

The Socialist Party was organized in 1900 and has made headway in Buenos Aires only. After the reform of the electoral laws it has had about 20 Deputies and 3 Senators in the National Congress. Among the items in its platform is the reform of the Constitution, especially as to intervention by the Executive in the provinces, Election of President by Congress, Parliamentary representation of territories, separation of Church and State, Parliamentary control of foreign relations, divorce law and civil and political rights for women.

In the electoral college the estimated strength of the parties is given as follows:-

Conservatives and others .....	98
Radical - Personalistas .....	160
Radical - Anti-personalistas ....	96
Socialists .....	22

*et al.*  
FROM L.A. Argentina.

Report No. 3787. April 29, 1927.

-----CLINICAL

Subject: Political Parties and Groups:

(b) Analysis of Leading Parties and Groups. (Contd.)

Important Leaders:

Rodolfo Moreno of the Conservative Party of Buenos Aires, was instrumental in the Conservative going with the other parties at Cordoba on April 2nd. He is a descendant of one of Argentina's illustrious men who was secretary of the first Committee of the Government of Argentina in 1810. Moreno was educated in Buenos Aires, where he received his degrees of Advocate. Later he lived in La Plata where he practiced his profession and went in for politics. In 1905 he was appointed Secretary and Professor of civil law in the Law Faculty. In 1907 the Government Commissioned him to inspect the harbor of La Plata, and to visit the Patagonian ports with a view to establishing local customs-houses. Some years later he was named Minister of Public Works, and Minister of Government in the Cabinet of Province of Buenos Aires, and in 1916 he was elected National Deputy. He has also edited several works.

Julio Roca (Sketch given under 3210-a and Who's who). He is the head of the Democratic Party of Cordoba, and he issued the invitations to the other Provincial Parties for the Conference in Cordoba on April 2nd.

Ramón J. Cárcano was born in 1860 in the city of Cordoba. In the year 1881 he took the degree of advocate at the University, and in 1884 he was elected Deputy in the National Congress where he gave special attention to questions of education. He resigned in 1886 and accepted the position of Minister in the Provincial Government of Cordoba; in 1887 he was made Director-General of Railways and Telegraphs; and in 1890 the party of Juaren Celman, to which he belonged, broke up and Cárcano retired to private life. After some time he was recalled to official positions, and was elected Governor of the province of Cordoba; in 1913 he was chosen Deputy and was re-elected in 1916. He is at present the Governor of the Province of Cordoba, which has the reputation of having the best Provincial Government.

RADICAL SOCIALISTAS

Hipólito Irigoyen was born in Buenos Aires about 1856, where he was educated. Later he read law at the University, but feeling no vocation for a legal career he took up agriculture and also devoted his attention to politics. In 1873 he was appointed Police Captain of the Eighth Ward of Buenos Aires, in 1878 he was elected a member of the Provincial Legislature of Buenos Aires and in 1881 he became a member of the National Chamber of Deputies. About the time he abandoned active participation in politics because the Autonomista Party to which he belonged, had opposed the formation of a Federal

From B.A. Argentina.

Report No.3787. April 29,1927.

## ARGENTINA ----- POLITICAL

Subject: Political Parties and Groups:

(b) Analysis of Leading Parties and Groups. (Contd.)RADICAL PERSONALISTAS (Contd.)

District. He was again in the political limelight in the Revolution of 1890, when he was chosen to take the important post of Chief of Police of Buenos Aires. After this uprising which was partly successful, he carried out in 1893 a revolution in which the Provincial Government was completely overthrown. In 1905 in the Revolution against the National Government, he is said to have shown much ability, though the revolt was crushed, the party gained strength. During the Presidency of Roque Saenz Peña he took an important part in the Revision of the electoral Law, making it a free, universal, secret and obligatory suffrage. The effects of this law were shown at once in the elections of 1912, and four years later in 1916 the Radicals won by a large majority, and Irigoyen was elected President, and assumed office on October 12, 1916. Throughout his public life, Hipolito Irigoyen has made it a practice to accept no salaries, but donate them to public charities.

Elpidio Gonzalez (Sketch under 3210 and in Who's Who.)

Pablo Torello was born in 1865 in the Province of Buenos Aires, and took his degree of Advocate at the University of Buenos Aires in the year 1894. He joined the Radical Party in its earliest stages, and when still very young took part in three revolutions, in 1890, 1893 and 1904. After that he retired from politics till 1916 when Irigoyen his former chief, invited him to take the place of Minister of Public Works in the cabinet. He also acted as Minister of Finance and Agriculture on several occasions.

Delfor del Valle (Sketch under 3210 and in Who's Who card file.)

RADICAL ANTI-PERSONALISTAS.

Leopoldo Melo, who was nominated President of the Anti-Personalistas ticket in April 1927. (Sketch under 3210 and in Who's Who card file.)

Angel Gallardo (Sketch given under 3210-b and in Who's Who card file.)

Miguel Sussini (Sketch given under 3210, and in Who's Who card file.)

Vicente Gallo was born in the year 1873, in the province of Tucuman where he received his primary education.

From I.A. Argentina.

Report No. 3787. April 29, 1927.



# MEMORANDUM-----POLITICAL

Subject: Political Parties and Groups:

(b) Analysis of Leading Parties and Groups. (Contd.)

RADICAL ANTI-PERSONALIST S. (Contd.)

Later he went to the University in Buenos Aires, where he obtained the degree of Advocate and Dr. of Laws. Since his youth he had been a strong supporter of the Radical Party and in 1898 he resigned the position of Secretary to the Governor when it was offered him by Governor Bernardo Irigoyen, because he would not serve under a chief who did not hold Radical views. He has been Secretary of the National Committee and President of the Buenos Aires Committee of the Radical Party, and has held high office. In 1912 he was elected Deputy. In 1916 he was re-elected and in 1919 was chosen Senator for the Capital with a large majority of votes. During April 1927 he was nominated as Vice-President on the Anti-Personalist ticket.

Thomas Le Breton was born in Buenos Aires in the year 1868 where he received his education first at the National College and later at the University, where he took his Degree of Doctor of Laws in the year 1891. He took special interest in patent and trade-marks, and is a recognised authority on the subject. In 1891 he was sent abroad on a mission to find an important official Royal map with which it was hoped to establish Argentina's rights to certain territory claimed by Brazil, in which he was highly successful, though his findings proved that the land belonged to Brazil.

In 1904 he was Argentina's representative to the Industrial Property Congress in Berlin. In 1908 he was delegate for Argentina at the Stockholm Congress for Protection of Artistic and Literary Property. In 1920 he was a member of the Administrative Commission of Land and Colonies. He was a strong supporter of the Radical Party, and in the year 1914 was elected National Deputy. During 1915, 1916 and 1917 he was a member of the Finance Committee. In 1918 he was re-elected for the period ending 1922, but had to resign in order to take up the post of Ambassador to the United States. After this post he became Minister of Agriculture. He resigned this post on August 31st. 1925. His resignation was caused by the President's refusal to intervene in the Government of the Province of Buenos Aires.

## Socialists

Juan B. Justo (Sketch under 3210 and Who's Who.)

Antonio Tomaso (Sketch under 3210 and Who's Who.)

## Sources:

Daily Newspaper. - Archives of the "La Nación".  
Argentines of Today - by Barker.

From N.A. Argentina.

Report No. 3707. April 29, 1927.

4-1 2657-L-75-  
3600 46

ARGENTINA----- POLITICAL

Subject: Political Issues and Problems:

(a) Important Problems and Issues Requiring Governmental Recognition and Action.

General:

As noted elsewhere, practically no constructive legislation of any kind has been passed by the National Congress during the five years of this administration, due to the Irigoyenist block in the Chamber of Deputies.

Now the presidential campaign (although elections are still ten months off) is getting under way and it is doubtful whether any of the problems cited below will receive serious consideration this year.

The League of Nations: This question is whether or not Argentina will become a member of the League of Nations. The history of the Argentine association with the League has been given in another chapter. This problem has no relation to the maintenance of internal and public peace or order. The Argentine joining the League would advance her position with some of the European Nations. In view of the fact that the League of Nations excludes from its supervision such matters as the Monroe Doctrine; it cannot be seen how would be affected the relationship of the Argentine and the United States, should the former join the League, except it would bring her closer to European Nations. The President at each session of Congress has advocated Congress taking some action in the matter; in his message delivered on May 18th., he stated "The Executive again invites Congress to decide adhering to the League".

Bolivian Boundaries Problem: On July 5th. 1925, Bolivia and Argentina signed a treaty settling a question of boundary between Bolivia and Argentina. There were no vital considerations involved, simply outlining the boundary in order that the matter might be settled. The delay in this problem has meant some small inconvenience caused in the Province of Salta. It has caused no effect whatever on the peace and order of the country and has no international aspects whatever. The matter has been before Congress now for two years. There is no objection to the treaty but simply due to dilatory tactics and the Irigoyenist block no action has been taken on this item. It was mentioned in the Presidential address of May 18, and action was requested.

Project to amend the Banking Laws: To supervise more closely all Banking Institutions. The Ministry of Finance to keep a Register in which will be entered: Name of Firm, Character, Nationality of Capital, Capital Authorized, Reserve Fund, latest balance sheet previous to registration, and such other data as may from time to time be required. Certain conditions are imposed, for instance: Bank must have a paid up capital of

## ARGENTINA-----POLITICAL

Subject: Political Issues and Problems:

(a) Important Problems and Issues Requiring Governmental Recognition and Action.

not less than a million pesos m/n if Argentine, and a million gold if foreign. Restrictions are placed as to gold reserve, national currency to be held in cash, and relation with "Banco de la Nacion" specified.

It is believed this is a much needed reform. Too much liberality now exists in Banking laws and to that is attributed many of the financial troubles of business houses. The President in June 1924 submitted a very detailed bill on the subject, and in his message to Congress in May of this year, he again entreats them to take action.

Consolidation of the National Debt: The non-consolidated debt of the Nation now amounts to approximately 380 million, exclusive of the State Railways. The last congress authorized a bond issue of 142 million pesos to consolidate the State Railways' debts up to the end of 1924; there has been contracted some 50 million since then. There was submitted to the Special Session 1926 of the National Congress a bill by the President to consolidate this 380 million debt. The Committee's report is favorable, but due to the dilatory tactics of the Congress nothing has been passed. The President again this year requested Congress to take action.

Taxation: The whole subject of taxation is in need of legislation. Practically all the income of the country is from customs and small internal taxes, like cigarettes, etc.- The land taxes are very small, and the country has no income tax law. There is also with reference to taxation a further problem, the double taxation, national and provincial. Products produced, or imported, in one Province are taxed in each other Province they may enter and if they come into the Federal Capital a national tax is imposed. The President in his message of May 18th, to the National Congress, stated that the intensity of this problem has reached a disquieting proportion.

Breaking up of Estates: The problem of breaking up the large estates and dividing up the agricultural lands. It is estimated that the cultivated lands of this country are owned by 10% of the population, and the others involved in agriculture make little more than a living wage. As has happened in other countries it is only a question of time before this problem will solve itself in a revolutionary manner, unless legislative action is taken. Combined with the idea to encourage immigration and colonization there was introduced in 1923 a project imposing a very high taxation on large agricultural holdings. Like all bills which tend to tax land no action has been taken by Congress.

From M.A. Argentina. Report No. 3801. May 31, 1927.

G-2 Report

3600

ARGENTINA-----POLITICAL

Subject: Political Issues and Problems:

(a) Important Problems and Issues Requiring Governmental Recognition and Action.

Roads: The lack of roads in the country is an item which tends to retard the progress of economical development. In 1924 a road construction bill was introduced into Congress. Any such bill naturally carries with it a tax on the province and property benefited. That land tax together with the dilatory attitude in Congress during the past few years has prevented any action thereon.

Sources:

The First National Bank of Boston  
Commercial Attache  
President's Message to Congress.  
Previous reports from this Office.

*C. R. R. R.*  
From M.A. Argentina.

Report No. 3801.

May 31, 1927.

6-2 Report

1927  
47  
3020

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Stability of Government.

(b) Stability of Present Administration.

RECEIVED G/2 W. D. DEC 8 1927

The present administration is absolutely stable. President Alvear is a man of unquestioned integrity and is supported by the best people throughout the Republic.

Some few months ago, members of the Irigoyenist party, incensed at the alleged mistreatment at the polls during the Provincial election, and threats by supporters of the Administration of intervention in their political stronghold, the Province of Buenos Aires; stated that there was nothing left for them to do but repeat the revolutionary activities of 1890. It was a gesture only and should any activity along such lines take place it would be quickly suppressed.

Sources:

Daily newspapers.

*C. B. Anderson*  
From: M.A. Argentina. Report No. 3844.

November 15th, 1927

G-2 Report

3600

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Political Issues and Problems

(a) Important Problems and Issues Requiring Governmental Recognition and Action

The political situation in Argentina at the present time is extremely tense and it is not improbable that a change of Government will take place in the near future.

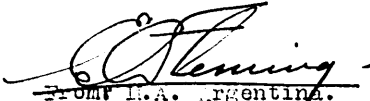
My informant, a reliable officer of the Argentine Army in whose confidence I happen to be, tells me that it has been decided by the Liga Patriotica Argentina and high ranking officers of the Army and Navy that the present situation is intolerable and cannot be permitted to go on.

General Augustin P. Justo the former Minister of War and General Luis J. Dellepiane the present Minister of War and other high ranking officers, are constantly under the observation of plain clothes men of the Government.

Sr. Carles, the President of the Liga Patriotica Argentina has also been under constant observation and there is an attempt at the present time to indite him for sedition. However it is not thought that the present Government would dare to carry out such a measure.

For an unexplainable reason all troops are being held in constant readiness. At the flying field, Palomar, in addition to the officer of the day, six other officers are required to remain constantly on duty day and night. When passes are given no more than fifty percent of the command is allowed to be absent. While the pretence for these measures was a threatened strike, the strike cloud has long passed and I am informed the measures are being strictly maintained.

My informant told me that while they would abhor a military Government for even a short time, it seems that it must come.

  
- From H.A. Argentina.

Report No. 4025

August 8th, 1929

G-2 Report

3020<sup>47</sup>

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Stability of Government.


(b) Stability of Present Administration.

At the same luncheon referred to in report No. 4033 (Index 4000), the following information was gathered with reference to the present Political situation:

The present political situation is very serious and nobody knows how long it will last nor where it will lead. Sr. Unsain gives two dates of importance in the near future; one, the last of September when Congress will rise without having accomplished anything. The other date being the 30th of November, election day for Governor in the Province of Buenos Aires. Should the Personalista Party fail to win this election, it would be a great blow to the Irigoyen party. While this party has a majority now, it is loosing its numbers very fast. Senator Del Valle is the Government candidate for Governor of Buenos Aires.

Dr. Unsain stated that if anything happened to the President of the Republic, the party would at once split and the probable leaders would be Elpidio Gonzalez, Minister of the Interior and Dr. Oyhanarte the Minister of Foreign Affairs. We however do not believe that either man is strong enough to lead a party. Sr. Martinez, the present Vice-President of the Nation is especially favoured and at this time is the choice of American Banking institutions here. There is also mention of a dark horse, some powerful man of the country not at present politically active, and there is always the probability of a temporary military regime.

Sr. Unsain stated that the President of the Republic was very suspicious of Americans and American interests.

  
From: M.A. Argentina. Report 4034. September 17, 1929

G-2 Report

4 1 2657 75 1929  
3020 50  
WAR DEPARTMENT

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Stability of Government.

(b) Stability of Present Administration. RECEIVED 6/2 W. O. OCT 28 1929

On September 20th the Chamber of Deputies attempted to hold a session but could not do so due to the fact that the Irigoyenist bloc which forms the majority abstained from attending. According to the press the reason for their absence was the knowledge obtained, that a conservative Deputy for the Province of Buenos Aires, Dr. Alberto Viñas, had prepared a motion calling for the political impeachment of the First Magistrate. They decided therefore to frustrate the move even if only temporarily in the manner described. On September 24th, however Dr. Viñas deposited a draft of the corresponding bill with the Secretary of the Chamber. The bill recalled the right given to the "Legislature" to accuse the First Magistrate of failing to comply properly with the duties assigned to his high office, and to indicate the degree of his responsibility for the effects of maladministration.

Dr. Vinas stated: "The solemn oath taken by the President of the Republic to carry out 'with loyalty and patriotism' the duties attaching to the Presidency has not been complied with by Sr. Irigoyen at any moment since October last; on the contrary, his personalist system of government has been characterised by an absolute unconstitutional subversion, passing the limits fixed by Article 86 of the Constitution by concentrating in his own hands all the administrative power, to the detriment and loss of prestige of the other organisations created by the Constitution in the Article referred to."

"Sr. Irigoyen neither accepts the views of anyone, nor considers necessary the collaboration of his Cabinet Ministers. He deals with and decides alone the most delicate problems of State, thus assuming the character of an absolute despot. His obsession is, as it was during his first term of office, to undermine and destroy the autonomy of the federated States; assume control of the Army and Navy; violate the individual guarantees of residents in the intervened provinces, imprisoning his opponents; and where his central activities are concerned, he declines to recognise the inalienable rights of Congress. But there is an even graver point to be made, relating to the moral and discipline of the country's armed forces and the public purse; it is the ridiculous and grotesque application of Law 11,268 which is being utilised for the purpose of giving promotion to men whose only qualification is their loyalty to Sr. Irigoyen, as witness the case of the Minister of the Interior. Dr. Elpidio Gonzalez, who was recently raised to the rank of captain, and innumerable instances where officers dismissed from their regiments for misconduct have been re-incorporated!"

Dr. Viñas refers also, to the manner in which the present Government is spending the public money; to the disorganization and lack of activity in the various departments of State; and presents, finally the following motion for adoption by the Chamber:

From: M.A. Argentina. Report No. 4038 October 2, 1929



## ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Stability of Government

(b) Stability of Present Administration.

"Formulate before the Honourable Senate the political impeachment of the President of the Republic, citizen Hipolito Irigoyen, for his failure to carry out his duties in a proper manner (Article 45 of the Constitution) the charges contained in the preamble to this motion serving as a basis for such action."

After this preamble had been read at the Session held on the 26th of September, Dr. Viñas arose and addressed the Assembly. His address was answered by Dr. Juan Victor Guillot (Irigoyenist member) who expressed his opinion as follows: He was not speaking in defence of the President because, he stated, as a magistrate the President did not need defending. That due to their majority, the Irigoyenist faction need not have allowed the matter to be dealt with, but could have passed a motion to the effect that it should not be considered at all; but they had not wished to do this in order to enable the whole country to witness the audacity of the author of the project.

Upon his conclusion the matter received no further consideration in the chamber, but was referred to the Committee of Justice.

Shortly after this debate Dr. Juan Victor Guillot took offence at some remarks made by Deputy Alberto Viñas and after the conclusion of the session the offended Legislator sent his seconds to demand satisfaction of Deputy Viñas who in his turn named Dr. Usandivaras and Sanchez Sorondo to represent him in the arrangements of the conditions for a duel.

This is the second time in less than three months that Dr. Alberto Viñas, Conservative representative for the Province of Buenos Aires, has left the Chamber of Deputies with a duel on his hands.

The seconds of Sr. Guillo were Messrs. Alejandro Miñones and Joaquin Costa. The duel was held in Olivos. Armed with pistols the duellists exchanged shots from a distance of 25 paces neither party being injured. A formal attempt was made by some of those present to reconcile the duellists, who however declined to take it into account. They left the place leaving the seconds and the director behind to draw up and sign the documents to show that satisfaction had been given in the matter over which the encounter arose.

Sources: Daily newspapers

From: M.A. Argentina. Report No. 4038 October 2, 1929

NOV 9 1907

TO THE ARGENTINES:

The Hour of vengeance has arrived:

He who feels the call of his conscience and fails to occupy the post his country calls him to is an evil man.

Three months ago we pointed out the danger of being humiliated if the Presidential excesses were not checked.

In the conscience of everyone, Radical or not Radical, Political or not Political, from the Vice President of the Republic to the most simple citizen of the country and the Ministers of the National Executive, it abides; in the conscience of everyone who is mortified by the ostentation of the Executive Power.

For this reason the responsibility belongs to us all.

The greater responsibility is on the wealthy, the intellectual, the respectable and courageous who assume the tactical representation of the needy, the ignorant and the weak.

The electoral majority which was obtained falsely to proclaim his "Historical Mandate" is now challenged by civil honour who opposes it with "Historical Avenge".

In the year 90, the people of Buenos Aires defended the empire of law.

In the year 52 the glorious Army of Caseros defeated the tyrant in defense of the outraged sovereignty.

In the year 10, the "Heróica Aldea" showed the world how the omnipotence of despots is conquered.

The Liga Patriótica Argentina continues to fulfill its duty by combating disorder, be it against whom it may,

without any other recompense than to merit the title of  
"continuers of traditional civilization" which made of liberty an arm and of honour a shield to defend the law.  
ARGENTINES !! This is an iron dilemma:

Or with the authority which, elated, obeys the law  
or with the country of good people who sacrifice their  
lives to uphold the respect of the Constitution.

MANUEL CARLES

## ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Stability of Government.

RECEIVED G/2 W. D. NOV 8 - 1929

(b) Stability of Present Administration.

The political situation is gradually growing more alarming, and it does not seem possible that the present situation can continue much longer. The murmuring and undercurrent of feeling against the present Administration is breaking out into open rebellion, and during the past week we have had several incidents of minor excitement. The "Liga Republicana" and the "Comite Radical Accion", two new political organizations growing out of this rebellion, have been endeavoring to hold daily meetings denouncing the policy of the present Government and their modus operandi. The Government has taken the position of endeavoring to quell these meetings, and this has been the cause of most of the active trouble. While these two organizations are not actually part of the "Liga Patriotica" they are looked upon with great favor by the "Liga Patriotica", and to the great surprise of all the "Liga Patriotica" plastered the City, the other day, with huge posters in all prominent places calling upon the people to revolt against the present Administration. In addition to the posters they also flooded the town with hand-bills, which were replicas of the posters, and I am enclosing one for your information which we were able to secure, together with its translation. The posters and hand-bills were hardly on the street before the authorities had despatched police to tear the posters down and gather in the bills.

October 12th, "Dia de La Raza", being a prominent gala day here, was celebrated by a great parade and review of all of the troops of the Capital and those stationed within a day's marching distance of the City. Everyone was fearful of this day, and up to a short time before the parade it was rumored that the parade would not take place. While the exact position of all of the troops is not known it is known that most of the officers are affiliated with the "Liga Patriotica", and there is very little doubt that the troops will be loyal to their officers. However, there is no desire on the part of the element that is urging the overthrow of the Government to have anything in the nature of blood-shed. They would much prefer that any change in the Administration could be done with the least possible upset of normal conditions. They wish to avoid at all cost placing themselves in the position of a typical South American revolution. The day passed off, therefore, without special incident, excepting for the fact that never before in the history of this annual event has such little enthusiasm been shown. In the Plaza de Mayo, opposite the Casa Rosada, where the review took place, a few thousand people were gathered, but the cheering for the President was very scant, and that which there was was clearly an organized group put there for the purpose. While this cheering was going on it was always followed by hisses from other parts of the audience. The review itself was excellent, and passed by with machinelike precision. There was, however, something lacking in the spirit of the day.

## ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Stability of Government

(b) Stability of Present Administration.

After the Review the Diplomatic Corps waited about two hours for the President to receive them, but he finally sent out word that he was too tired. In fact he did not look well at all either at the Te Deum before the Review or at the Opera in the evening.

The last incident occurred last evening in the City's most prominent thoroughfare, which is blocked off from 4 until 7 p.m., for promenaders. The Conservative newspaper "La Fronda" has its office on this street, and for sometime past has been engaging itself in attacks on the Administration. Last evening the "Liga Republicana" had announced a meeting to take place in the vicinity of this newspaper office, but the authorities had quickly despatched mounted and dismounted police to prevent the meeting taking place. In addition they also sent some political gangsters to create a counter demonstration if the police had any trouble breaking up the meeting. The meeting did not take place, but the Administration's rowdies were not satisfied so they placed themselves in front of the "La Fronda's" office, where some of the editorial staff were gathered on the balcony. After a moments wait one of these men drew a gun and opened fire on the newspaper men, which they promptly returned, and in a short time a pitched gun battle was going on. A cordon of police was immediately thrown around "La Fronda's" office, and at an early hour this morning the Editors were escorted home by details of detectives.

This all shows that the situation is coming to a head, and it is expected that before many months are passed some radical change must occur. It is known that the Foreign Minister, always a strong Irigoyenist, has also had a serious split with the President.

G-2 Report

3020

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Stability of Government.

(b) Stability of Present Administration.

During the month numerous anti-Government demonstrations have been held in the City. These gatherings have been dispersed by the police and permission for the holding of public demonstrations and meetings has been refused. The Liga Republicana, a new political organization, has been responsible for the organization of numerous anti-Irigoyenist demonstrations. These meetings have been organized as protest against the present political and legislative conditions in the country. The Liga Patriotica Argentina has also organized several demonstrations and placarded the town with notices in which they call upon the people to defend the Constitution of the country which is being violated. The Police Force has been accused criminally for the negligence in the fulfillment of their duties on these occasions. The last public meeting was held, with official permission, by the Liga Patriotica Argentina on October 25th, when the President of this Institution notwithstanding repeated threats against his life, spoke publicly in the Plaza Congreso.

The Liga sent a preliminary warning to the Government officials and the Police that any attempt to break up this meeting by force in violation of the constitutional guarantees would meet with force, whether the force attempting to break up the meeting were the organized force of the Government or gangsters employed by the party in Power. Matters looked very serious before the meeting as it followed so closely upon the meeting in the Plaza Constitution, where three people were killed including the Speaker, and several wounded. There were numerous rumours of what was about to take place.

We attended this meeting personally, and it was very orderly and well conducted. The authorities had apparently changed their attitude, and the Police were there in great numbers not to break up the meeting, but to protect it. Enclosed is one of the circulars distributed, and its translation.

The speech of Dr. Carles was a warm-worded protest against the President of the Republic, and his Ministers whom he accused of having "robbed the people of their rights, their liberty, and their traditions, and of having overridden the National Constitution". When the meeting was over the crowd at the earnest request of Dr. Carles dispersed immediately.

On October 3rd, the Assistant Secretary to the President of the Republic, Sr. Guillermo Carrasco, was killed during a political gathering in his own house. The reasons are still wrapped in mystery. Rey Diaz who maintains that he killed him by accidentally dropping his

From: M.A. Argentina. Report No. 4056 November 14, 1929

## ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Stability of Government

(b) Stability of Present Administration. (Cont'd)

revolver is detained, but it is generally believed that a crime was committed for political reasons.

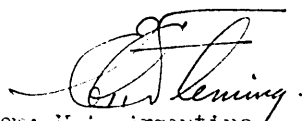
On October 11th, the personnel of the Buenos Aires Fire Brigade published a manifesto in which they stated that they would not take part in the 12th of October military parade if it was to be held by Colonel Cobos and Commander Schonone, Chief and Second-in-Command respectively, of the City's firefighting forces, who were most unpopular. This was immediately communicated to Colonel Graneros, Chief of Police, and former Chief of the Brigade, who took the matter in hand and temporarily settled the trouble with the men personally. He stated at the time that he was willing to listen to their complaints of ill-treatment which should be reported to him later. The matter has since been taken up by the Minister of the Interior, and the President of the Republic, and has resulted in the dismissal of Colonel Cobos and Commander Schonone, as well as the acceptance of all the conditions for improved conditions on duty, leave and promotion of the men in the Force. Several daily papers have criticized the attitude of the firemen as insubordinate.

On November 10th, Dr. Carlos Washington Lencinas was murdered in Mendoza shortly after his arrival in that City upon his return from Buenos Aires, where he had been for some time past defending his diploma as Senator-elect for the Province of Mendoza, which was recently rejected in Congress. It had been stated that upon his arrival in Mendoza Dr. Lencinas would be arrested as guilty of being complicated in serious irregularities in dealings with Banks in Mendoza. However, in the station he was greeted by a large number of followers, who escorted him to a meeting place, where he addressed the Public. Here it was that a shooting affray took place, and Dr. Lencinas and several others were killed.

The supposed murderer, Jose Caceres, who was also badly wounded in the affray, died the next day.

It is stated that upon his departure from Buenos Aires, Dr. Lencinas requested personal protection from the President of the Republic in order to offset any upheaval upon his arrival in his native Province.

This crime is not considered a personal crime but purely of political origin. This has been corroborated by a distinguished representative of the newspaper "La Epoca", which is considered the mouthpiece of the Administration.



From: M.A. Argentina. Report No. 4056 November 14, 1929

G-2 Report

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Stability of Government.  
RECEIVED G/2 W. D. JAN 16 1930

(b) Stability of President Administration.

On Tuesday, December 24th, an attempt was made on the life of President Hipolito Irigoyen of the Argentina Republic. The attempt was made as the President was leaving his personal residence for his office at about 11.15 in the morning.

The stories surrounding the attempted assassination are conflicting especially on one significant point, and that point is whether or not the assailant was a crazed individual independently inspired, or a member of some organization or political group. The authorities claim the former, but within two hours of the incident I interviewed an eye-witness, who claims to have been within four meters of the wouldbe assailant when he was killed. This witness was standing on Calle Brazil near Calle Tacuari waiting for an omnibus when the President's car preceded and followed by two other cars, a part of his body-guard, approached down Calle Brazil. As the car neared the corner of Tacuari the witness claims that three men, and not one man, rushed out of the doorway of the second house from the corner, and that the leading man was firing a pistol at the President's car. The witness also stated that she thought the other two men were firing but was not sure. The leading car of detectives and the Presidential car following it continued down Calle Brazil and turned to the left in Calle Tacuari, while the car following the President stopped, the detectives leaped out and attacked the wouldbe assassin. He was killed on the spot, and his body fairly riddled. The Chief Detective was also wounded, but it appears as though he was accidentally shot by one of his own group.

The wouldbe assassin was identified as Gualterio Marinelli, a Dentist of anarchistic tendencies, who formerly was identified with anarchist activities here, but his recent police records shows that for some time past he has not been so connected. Another strange phase seems to be that he was known among his intimates as a supporter of Dr. Irigoyen.

The opinion that there was more than one assassin involved, even though only one fired, was given to me by one of the writers of the President's official newspaper here the "La Epocha", within a few hours of the incident. The Government at the present time is maintaining that this was an individual attempt by a crazed man, but certain facts testified to by the witnesses would indicate that he was supported by other individuals and this, of course, would mean that some organization was in back of the attempt.

  
From: M.A. Argentina / Report No. 4083 December 26, 1929.



## ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Local Political Conditions:  
(States Provinces and Departments)

(b) Current Situations.B U E N O S   A I R E S

RECEIVED NOV 23 1929

On December 1st the elections for Governor of the Province of Buenos Aires will take place. These are of great political significance to the country as this is the richest and most important province and its controller has a great hold over the country.

During President Irigoyen's Presidential campaign in 1928, it was stated that large sums from the public revenue of the Province of Buenos Aires were handed over by the Governor, who was a supporter of the Personalista Party, to further this campaign. The other parties therefore are determined to make an effort to wrest the Government of the province from the hands of the Radical (Personalista) party.

On October 27th the Personalista party of Buenos Aires met in Convention for the purpose of nominating a Provincial ticket. The successful nominees required two thirds of the votes and after many votes had been taken and many meetings had been held by the Committees of the two factions, the prominent candidates for Governor of each faction were finally eliminated and on the 13th of November the Convention succeeded in nominating a candidate for Governor and Vice Governor. The disagreement in the Convention was between the partisans of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Oyhanarte, and the Minister of the Interior, Dr. Elpidio Gonzalez, for the control of the political situation of the Province.

The nominee for Governor is a man whom Oyhanarte favours while the nominee for Vice Governor is Elpidio Gonzalez' favourite.

Sr. Nereo Crovetto who is nominee for Governor is the President of the Banco Hipotecario Nacional (National Mortgage Bank)

The nominee for Vice Governor is Sr. Juan Garraalda. Both candidates accepted their nominations.

The two important parties figuring in this election are the Radical Personalista Party and the Conservative Party.

On November 22nd the Conservative Party of Buenos Aires, elected and proclaimed as their candidates for Governor, Dr. Enrique Santamarina and for Vice Governor, Dr. Edgardo J. Miguez. These candidates have been on a political campaign throughout the Province trying to unite all the various Conservative elements to vote on the same ticket.

From: M.A. Argentina

Report No. 4066

November 27, 1929

## ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Local Political Conditions  
(States Provinces or Departments)

(b) Current Situations. (Cont'd)

The Socialist Party headed by Dr. Alfredo Palacios attempted to unite with the Independent Socialist Party but failed to come to an agreement.

On November 22nd in La Plata the Socialist Party elected and nominated their candidates for Governor and Vice Governor. The nominees were Dr. Nicolás Repeto and Dr. Jose M. Lemos, respectively.

The Independent Socialist Party and the Radical Anti-Personalista Party have as yet made no nominations. There is an attempt being made at present to reorganize the Radical Anti-Personalista Party entirely, and it is rumoured that the Ex-President of the Republic Dr. Alvear will be invited to head the movement which will be in opposition to the Irigoyen Administration. The immediate object would be the elections to be held in March.

Municipal elections were held on November 25th in 96 of the 110 districts into which the Province of Buenos Aires is divided, the proceedings being carried out in perfect order no untoward incident having been reported. The polls were hotly contested, especially in the districts where the "Intendente" was to be elected. The counting of the votes cast has not yet taken place. While the results of these elections are not devoid of some bearing on the polls to take place in the Province on December 1st, the results can hardly be taken as a decisive indication of the voting strength of the two large parties - Radicals and Conservatives - which will contest the Governorship, in as much as both are greatly divided on Municipal issues. Many votes cast for Radicals on November 25th will on December 1st pass to the opposition and a good number of those who support Conservative ideas in purely local politics are liable to vote for the Radical candidate. It is safe, however to predict a hard fight on December 1st

G-2 Report

4 1 267 L 75  
3410

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Local Political Conditions:  
(States, Provinces and Departments)

(b) Current Situation.

B U E N O S   A I R E S

On January 11th, the counting of the votes for the election, which took place on December 1st for Governor and Vice-Governor of the Province of Buenos Aires was terminated. The results were as follows:

Radicals	178,515	votes.
Conservatives	125,216	votes.
Socialists	20,856	votes.

In accordance with these votes 64 electors correspond to the first party, 44 to the second party, and 6 to the third.

The electoral college of the Province of Buenos Aires met in La Plata on January 29th, and elected the Province's new Governor and Vice-Governor.

The new Governor assumes office on March 1st.

*E. T. Loring*  
From: M.A.Argentina Report No.4104 February 6,1930.

## ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Legislative Branch

March 14, 1930

(a) Organization and Functional Powers.

The following is a report of the recent Congressional elections held in the country. Owing to the peculiar system followed in conducting these elections it is thought necessary to preface the report itself with an explanation of this system.

Every two years, half the members of the Chamber of Deputies relinquish their representation as such and are replaced by a similar number, so that the Chamber is completely renewed (bar-re-election) every four years, this being the period for which Deputies are voted. Elections were held on the second of March for this purpose in the Capital and nearly every Province in Argentina. It is a known fact that the Radicals (Irigoyenistas) have an absolute majority in the Chamber of Deputies while this is not the case in the Senate.

On March second, 81 Deputies were voted for fifty eight majority seats and twenty three minority ones, as by the system of polling in the country a certain proportion of the available seats go to the party who are the runners up when the count is made. Thus, in the city, fourteen Deputies will be returned, the winning party taking ten seats and the minority four, for which purpose only ten names are included on the voting paper of each party. In sparsely populated provinces there is only one election in four years and this is why there was not any voting this time in San Luis, whilst for the same reason, there are alternately no minority seats, which has now happened in the Provinces of Catamarca, Jujuy and La Rioja. The following is the Provincial distribution of seats in dispute on March second:

District	Seats	
	Maj.	Min.
Capital	10	4
Buenos Aires	13	6
Catamarca	2	-
Cordoba	4	2
Corrientes	3	1
Entre Rios	4	2
Jujuy	2	-
La Rioja	2	-
Mendoza	2	1
Salta	2	1
San Juan	2	1
Santa Fe	7	3
Santiago del Estero	2	1
Tucuman	3	1

Totals:

58

23

The following statement shows the political persuasion of the Deputies whose term of office expire on April 30th.:

From: M.A. Argentina

Report No. 4141

April 14, 1930

## ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Legislative Branch

(b) Organization and Functional Powers. (Cont'd)

Irigoyenists	35
Conservatives	20
Alvearistas	19
Socialists	2
Ind. Socialists	2
Seats vacant	3
Total	<u>81</u>

Seats falling vacant in 1932 are as follows:

Irigoyenists	51
Conservatives	14
Alvearistas	6
Ind. Socialists	6
Total	<u>77</u>

The electoral campaign has been marked by violence and lawless actions. On February 13th in the town of Lincoln in the Province of Buenos Aires, on the occasion of a Conservative Convention, during a procession of the delegates, while passing the Radical headquarters; shots were fired and a riot started in which three men were killed and about twenty wounded. It has not yet been decided who started the trouble but there is little doubt that the Irigoyenistas were responsible, however, both sides plausibly argue their innocence. On the same day in the town of Toledo in the Province of Cordoba another affray took place between the police and a body of Democrats. One police agent was killed and a sergeant wounded as well as several other civilians. More trouble occurred in San Juan where two people were killed and two wounded. Scenes of wild disorder prevailed when it was attempted to hold the Irigoyenist Convention for the election of candidates. On February 23rd in Desamparados, a town a stones' throw from the Capital of San Juan, Dr. Manuel Ignacio Castellanos, the Opposition leader in San Juan, was assassinated in his house where he was recovering from wounds received at the affray mentioned previously as having occurred in that Province. The victim was conducting the defense of certain political prisoners, who were militant in the ranks of the "Bloquista Party".

The following statement has been made by the leading daily in Buenos Aires, "La Prensa": "The blood that has been recently shed added to that which is now being spilt on Argentine soil, where it is likely to foster a vigorous patriotism, is one of the most shameful blots that has ever besmirched the good fame of Argentine Democracy."

However on March 2nd a relatively quiet election day was held in Argentina.

From: M.A. Argentina.

Report No. 4141

April 14, 1930

## ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Legislative Branch

(b) Organization and Functional Powers. (Cont'd)

Outrages occurred in the Province of Mendoza, where in one locality voters were stripped of their clothes by the Irigoyen officials in charge before being allowed to enter the booths and the only "ticket" handed them was that of the "Irigoyenists" themselves. The official party is stated to have thus procured a sweeping victory in this locality. While in the City of Buenos Aires, and most of the Provinces it would be impossible for such conditions to exist it is a well established fact that no liberty is permitted the voters in the smaller Provinces where they are actually terrorized and strong armed either in remaining away from the polls altogether or vote for the Personalists candidate.

Carlos Gallegos 'Movano, opposition candidate as National Deputy in Mendoza, was arrested by the police for some slight offence on the day of the election in order to prevent his influence and the engineering of his own campaign.

The elections have been followed with the greatest interest and enthusiasm throughout the country, there being great rejoicing wherever it was shown that the Administration was defeated.

Provincial returns have been as follows:

<u>CAPITAL:</u>	<u>FINAL TOTALS</u>
Independent Socialists	109,292
Socialists	83,076
Irigoyenists	82,713
Salud Publica	12,307
Communists R.A.	5,372
Communists	2,079

In the City of Buenos Aires (Capital) the Irigoyenist Party lost more than 45,000 votes, and seven seats in the Chamber of Deputies as an outcome of the March 2nd, elections in the Federal Capital.

BUENOS AIRES:

Irigoyenists	172,744
Conservatives	154,249
Socialists	26,307
Blank Votes	10,072

The Irigoyenist Party which in the past has "held" the above Province by a majority of more than 100,000 votes won the March 2nd elections by less than a fifth of that total as the above figures show.

## ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Legislative Branch

(b) Organization and Functional Powers. (Cont'd)CATALUNYA:

Oppositionists	9,967
Irigoyenists	6,558

Although, as the foregoing totals indicate, the Conservative Party made remarkable gains as compared with previous National elections in the Province, political observers are inclined to attach more significance to the progress made by the Socialist Party, the ranks of whose provincial supporters have been swollen by more than 20,000 since 1928. It is pointed out in this connection that while the Conservatives have certainly robbed the official party of many of its followers, internal dissidence in the party threatens its existence, and that the next elections may easily find it divided into four or even more groups. On the other hand, there are many who believe that the Socialists will hold together firmly and be able to attract sufficient new adherents to make themselves very dangerous indeed to their opponents at some future time.

CORDOBA:

Irigoyenists	78,223
Democrats	78,037

In Cordoba the counting of the votes cast started on March 20th, however, on March 21st the work was brought to an unexpected standstill as an outcome of a conflict between the chairman and the representatives of the press. The chairman having decided to exclude reporters of certain newspapers from the room in which the count was taking place. However, this incident was overcome.

When the counting of the votes for Cordoba ended a hitherto unthought of possibility of a political party winning an election and seeing its rivals take a majority of the available seats happened. While the voting on March 2nd, favoured two of the Irigoyenist candidates more than anyone else, the two candidates who enjoyed the next largest degree of support were democrat nominees. In this manner the seats in the majority list were equally divided at the finish. The Democrats also won the minority seats two Radicals being at the bottom of the poll. Thus the Democrats obtained four seats in Congress to the Irigoyenists' two.

Rumours, which were later confirmed, then began to circulate to the effect that the Cordoba Democratic Party's Agents had been kidnapped by political rivals on the previous night in order to facilitate the tampering with the boxes containing the votes on the last day of the count. When these allegations were proved it was rumoured that

From: M.A. Argentina      Report No. 4141      April 14, 1930

## ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Legislative Branch

(b) Organization and Functional Powers. (Cont'd)

the March 2nd, elections in Cordoba would be cancelled and the electorate would be reconvened to the poll.

Political gossips, commenting upon the probability of the official party resorting to the measure referred to, point out that while the electorate would, almost certainly, return the Democrats to office, there would always be a remote chance of the Irigoyenists obtaining, say, three seats to their present two. Thus, without standing to lose anything they might conceivably increase their majority in the Chamber, and at the same time, win for themselves a reputation for fair play, though whether the people would look at the matter in this light is, of course, questionable.

However, to date no further action has been taken on this point.

CORRIENTES:

Irigoyenists	29,652
Liberals	19,465
Autonomists	17,135

ENTRE RIOS:

Anti-Irigoyenists	38,550
Irigoyenists	37,062

JUJUY:

Irigoyenists	9,276
Opposition	3,394

LA RIOJA:

Personalistas	9,276
Oppositionists	3,481

MENDOZA:

Irigoyenists	24,097
Lencinistas	19,368
Liberals	6,800

SALTA:

Irigoyenists	13,708
Union Provincial	5,759

SAN JUAN:

Irigoyenists	22,670
Bloquistas	2,881
Socialists	2,332

From: M.A. Argentina Report No. 4141 April 14, 1930



## ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Legislative Branch

(b) Organization and Functional Powers. (Cont'd)

In the Province of San Juan owing to the steps taken by the Federal Interventor to assure the Irigoyenist majority and the strictness with which his orders were complied with, little interest was taken in the scrutinizing of the votes cast there, the final results being a foregone conclusion.

SANTA FE:

Irigoyenists	66,694
Democrats	57,460
Unificados	32,665
Cabelleristas	24,328

It may be stated in this connection that in the city of Rosario the Democrats showed themselves to be the strongest party, where they obtained a sweeping majority over the Personalistas as the returns for the city referred to show Democrats 23,985 and the Irigoyenists with 15,860 votes.

SANTIAGO DEL ESTERO:

Radicals	23,262
Radicals Unificados	20,849
Radicals Corvalanistas	11,191

TUCUMAN:

Radicals	25,111
Liberals	14,204
Rad. Oppositionists	13,273
Defensa Provincial	12,834
Socialists	2,900
Independent Socialists	1,436

On April 9th the counting of the votes terminated and the composition of the reconstructed Chamber of Deputies was as follows:

Of the total of 158 seats no fewer than 100 will be occupied by Irigoyenists - that is to say, fifteen more than was formerly the case; 57 will be divided among the Opposition parties, and one will remain vacant in consequence of the resignation of Sr. Muzio. Eighty-one of the members of the House have entered as the outcome of the March 2nd elections and the remainder are the "carry-over" from the old Chamber. The new members include 49 Irigoyenists and 32 Opposition candidates, the latter, being subdivided as follows: 16 Conservatives, Democrats and affiliated parties; 10 Independent Socialists; 5 Anti-Personalists and one "old" Socialist. The most powerful bloc in the Opposition ranks will be that made up by the representatives of the Conservatives and De-

From: M.A. Argentina

Report No. 4141

April 14, 1930


## ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Legislative Branch.

(b) Organization and Functional Powers. (Cont'd)

mocrats, who total thirty. The Independent Socialist bloc will control fifteen votes and the Anti-personalists 11. The "Old" Socialists will control none but their own single vote.

There is a strong Political rumour current of a movement within the Army to terminate the unfair tactics at elections. While no officers on the active list are connected with this movement, we are given to understand that they are all involved and that General Justo whose present status is "Disponibilidad" (Awaiting Orders) is the head of the movement. I know from one of his junior officers who was to visit him at his home the other evening that he was requested to go there in civilian clothes as quietly as possible because the house of the General is under constant surveillance of the Government secret Service Agents. It has even been rumoured from time to time that the Army and the Navy grouped together with the Liga Patriotica Argentina would be behind a peaceful coup to change the administration. This group however abhors any semblance of a revolution and have waited patiently for some natural change in the administration. They are also handicapped by or other factor. In the case of a coup there does not seem to be any man big or strong enough to take over the reins of the Government.



From: M.A. Argentina Report No. 4141

April 14th, 1930

G-2 Report

2657-L-75

4-1

57

3200

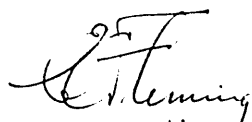
ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Legislative Branch

(b) Organization and Functional Powers.

RECEIVED BY THE U.S. MAR 19-1930

Despite a number of citations, the Chamber of Deputies has resolutely refused to meet up to the present and all hope of a session has been abandoned until after the Holy Week holidays, the next convocation being for April 23rd. It is not expected however, that any useful legislative work will be done for some months to come. All the indications are that for weeks ahead the sessions will be taken up by acrimonious but unprofitable discussion of the credentials of the Deputies returned at last month's election. San Juan where the election was an absolute farce, can be safely counted upon to provide yards of oratory, even if the result of the debate is something in the nature of a foregone conclusion. The case of Cordoba is expected to give rise to more than usually lively discussion, and, now, comes Corrientes. The Autonomist party of that Province has resolved to challenge the diplomas of all the members returned, on the ground that pressure by the Federal authorities prevented a free election being held and that the will of the people has not been expressed. With three such exciting subjects on the agenda, it seems hopeless to expect the honorable members to take any interest in such prosaic things as Bills.

  
From: M.A. Argentina. / Report No. 4143 April 15, 1930

G-2 Report

4-1 2657-2-75

58

3600

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Political Issues and Problems.

RECEIVED C/2 W. D. MAY 9 - 1930

The Government "axe" has been falling again during the past few days, no fewer than 3,000 employees having been dismissed en bloc from the Post Office and 1,100 from the Ministry of Agriculture. It is stated that further staff reductions will be made in the course of the next few days.

The majority of the suspended Post Office employees were only engaged a week or two before the national elections on March 2nd. Nevertheless, it is understood that they will endeavour to obtain an interview with the President of the Republic this month to have their cases reconsidered.



From: M.A. Argentina. Report No. 4147 April 16, 1930

G-2 Report

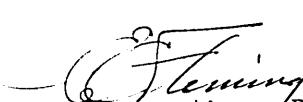
ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Local Political Conditions.

RECEIVED G/2 W. D. MAY 23 1930

(b) Current Situations.

With reference to Evaluation of Report No.3410(b) - No.4104, as stated in our Report 3410(b) No.4066 of November 27th,1929, the Governor and Vice-Governor of the Province of Buenos Aires (nominees of the Radical Personalista Parties in the elections held on December 1st) are Sr. Nereo Crovetto and Sr. Juan Carralda, who took office on March 1st,1930.

  
From: M.A. Argentina Report No.4148 April 25,1930

G-2 Report

2637-1-75  
3800 60

PROVINCIAL (Political)

Subject: Legislative Branch.

(b) Organization and Functional Powers.

The Credentials Committee studying the Diplomas for Deputies elected on March 2nd, finished its work for the 14 provinces on the 14th. Their Report recommended the rejection of the diplomas of six Deputies: Daniel Videla Dorna (Conservative Party) from Buenos Aires, Carlos R. Porta (Bloquista Party), Justo Pastor Savallo, and Jose Rafael Guerrero (Officialista Party) from San Juan, Jose Hipolito Lercinas (Union Civica Radical Fencinista Party) from Mendoza, and Samuel Gomez Henriquez (Officialismo Party) from Jujuy. These Deputies are alleged to have employed illegal methods to obtain majority votes, and their personal records are questionable.

The President of the National Chamber of Deputies has issued an order convening the House to preparatory session to consider the report presented by the Credentials Committee and appoint the new Deputies. However, as yet no session has been held in the Chamber.

*Continuing*

From: M. A. Argentina Report No. 4170 June 10, 1930.

4 1 2657-275 1930

61  
3020

G-2 Report

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Stability of Government

RECEIVED G/2 W. D. JUL 18 1930

(b) Stability of Present Administration

Dr. Paul Oyhanarte National Deputy for the Province of Buenos Aires and a brother of the present Minister of Foreign Affairs, in the Argentine Administration, is an active and vigorous enemy of the entire administration, has been viciously attacking the President for some time past. In a publicly issued statement he claims that his life was threatened some days ago. He states that at first he took no notice of the threat, but later was reliably informed that the threat was a sincere one. Thereupon he sent a telegram to the Chief Executive of the country, whom he accused of being responsible for the plot, and advised him that if any attempt was made on his life, and he survived, that he personally would kill the President.

The strife within the Cabinet has grown steadily, and the Minister of the Interior, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs are bitter enemies. One is very jealous of the other. While the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Oyhanarte, is very close to the President, he is constantly slandering and abusing him to outsiders. He was told at the Jockey Club the other day by a friend that under the present circumstances it would be an excellent idea if he resigned his position as Foreign Minister. Thereupon Dr. Oyhanarte replied "that if this message came from the President", referring to the President with a vile epithet, "that the same friend could return and tell the President, with his compliments to go to ...". Dr. Elpidio Gonzalez, on the other hand, while at the present time slightly at loggerheads with the President is the strong man of the Cabinet, and the one man whom the President is afraid to discipline or refuse to listen to.

Within the past few weeks, the Minister of Public Works Dr. Jose B. Abalos has threatened to resign his position, because persons employed in his division were discharged by the wholesale without consulting him. This threatened resignation, however, did not materialize.

There is now within the present reigning party very definite discussions going on as to the removal of the present Chief Executive. There are two proposed plans, one plan is to force the President to resign, to allow his normal successor Dr. Martinez to take over the reign of government. This plan however will be opposed by the enemies of Dr. Elpidio Gonzalez whom they consider as the logical candidate for the office of President at the next election should this plan materialize. The other plan is to force the resignation of the President and Vice-President Dr. Enrique Martinez. The President of the house of representatives Dr. Andres Ferreyra and this would leave the next in succession the Chief Justice of the Court Dr. F. Alcorta, who was formerly the President of the country in the year 1910. This seems to be the most favoured plan

From: M.A. Argentina

Report No. 4186

June 27th, 1930

## ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Stability of Government.

(b) Stability of Present Administration

and the one that might pass if any were to be given consideration.

The Army on the other hand is very much alarmed about the situation and are looking forward to the 9th of July with grave fears of trouble, not of a revolution but of the probable assassination of the President.

In this connection all the Electric Light Power Plants and the Gas Co were threatened with a strike which had it taken place would have been of great magnitude, because not only would the city have been without light and gas but the street cars would have been without power, the electric suburban trams would have also been without power and after 24 hours the telephone Company would be unable to operate. The most serious results however would have been the loss of power in the pumping stations that supply water to several of the suburban communities. The Administration endeavoured to remain calm and for the first time drastic steps were taken by the Government. They mobilized all the electricians of the Navy and the Signal Corp of the Army in order that they might continue to operate the plants in spite of the strike. The Minister of Marine was up the entire day and night preceeding the strike unloading machine guns, rifles, cannon and other material, and making his displacements about the city. The Army also was being held quietly in readiness for any emergency. While on the face of it this appeared to be an ordinary strike, the President and his Cabinet believed it to be a political plot to place the city in darkness and make it helpless while another group attempted to take over the reins of government. On the morning of the strike only 20 or 30 men actually laid off work. The suspicions of the Administration are partially confirmed by the private detectives of the Bankers Association who claim to have unearthed a plot to raid the banks while the city was in darkness. The Minister of the Interior has stated that he does not believe they can avert a repetition of the Week of Terror in 1919 but expects it to take place some time in the month of August and has declared that the sooner it comes and is over with the better it will be for the country. He believes the communists are taking advantage of the political distress and are the direct cause of other labour troubles and political plots and the sooner the country is rid of them the better it will be for all concerned.

Sources Reliable: Persons close to the Minister of the Interior.



G-2 Report

SEP 12 1930

3020

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Stability of Government.

(b) Stability of Present Administration

The political situation has become tense. All of the parties are struggling frantically to arrive at a peaceful solution of their difficulties, but unless the solution comes very soon it is believed that they are rapidly drifting towards serious trouble. Incident after incident has been averted and the President repeatedly prevented from making some false step that would light the spark of this very delicate situation. The most recent act that threatened to bring civil war upon the country was the proposed intervention in Entre Rios. It is believed that such a step would have actually split the Army and Navy with the large majority of both in sympathy with the Province.

Noone realizes the danger to the Administration as much as the Administration themselves, and as outlined in our Report No. 4186 of June 27th, 1930, every effort is being made to force the present Chief Executive to resign. We are reliably informed that his Cabinet Officers for the last two or three days have been insistently demanding that he take a prolonged rest and turn over the reins of Government to his Constitutional successor. There seems to be no idea in any circle or quarter of a Dictator assuming command, and we are given to understand that all of the forces of the Government, meaning the Army and the Navy, and their associates the Federal Police, will insist upon the provisions of the Constitution being carried out.

The President himself is terrified, and refuses to believe that there is any unrest in the country, but claims that they are trying to dislodge him for personal reasons. We are informed by his physical advisor that both his mind and body are failing fast, and that he is a figure of abject terror. This was demonstrated here in the last two days when he surrounded his home and the Casa Rosada with enormous guards. There were two hundred armed police surrounding his home, and on the roof he had mounted four machine guns with their crews, under the command of an officer. In the Plaza near his home a troupe of Cavalry was held in readiness under saddle with full war equipment throughout the night. This morning I made a tour of the neighbourhood in the vicinity of the Casa Rosada and found all the huge doors at all the entrances closed with the exception of two and there sentries were marching with full field equipment. We do not know how many troops are within the Casa Rosada, but it is believed to be about one battalion. Detachments of the Guardia de Seguridad in groups of about 20 are parked in various side streets leading to the Government House, as are also numerous detachments of motor cycles with sidecars and armed police. It is firmly believed that this is simply the result of the President's terror, and that there is nothing to justify any such precaution as yet. It is also believed that his Aides, advisors, and Cabinet Ministers are doing almost anything to humour him, and at the same time hasten

From: M. A. Argentina

Report No. 4213

August 29th, 1930

## ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Stability of Government

(b) Stability of Present Administration. (Cont'd)

his removal. During the night of the 27th and 28th of August, he ordered the Division at Campo de Mayo to proceed into the City, but the Generals commanding both the First and Second Division rushed to advise against any such move that might only provoke some trouble that might otherwise be averted. It is known that while both of these Officers are very loyal men, General Elias C. Alvarez is very much opposed to the Administration.

A very strict censorship has been imposed on the Press, and very little information is getting out. The Associated Press informed me last night that they are practically tied hand and foot. The rumours and excitement about town yesterday forced the peso down to \$124.50 at the closing last night. They seem to have recovered slightly from their fright of yesterday and the peso this morning is a little stronger.

The underlying fear of everybody concerned is that under the guise of a political movement the Communists and Anarchists will make a move that will result in a week of terror. No fear is felt that the Communists and Anarchists could make any permanent gain, and if they do make any move it will probable result in their extermination.

As we are writing this Report we have just received another call from the President of one of the Banks that the market is very panicky and that the rate of exchange is jumping about. It is now back at its high level of yesterday.



From: M. A. Argentina

Report No. 4213

August 29th, 1930

## ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Stability of Government.

(d) Armed Revolutionary Movements.

[The Revolution of September 6th, and the change of Administration caused thereby was forced upon the Argentine public by the former Administration itself. As outlined in our Report No. 4186 of June 27th, a change in the Administration was due to take place in the latter part of August, but this change was to take place within the Radical party. About the middle of August the Opposition consisting of Conservatives, Socialists, Independent Socialists, etc., began to raise the cry for the change to take place immediately. The situation, as outlined in our previous Report, within the Government itself was perfectly hopeless, the President being physically and mentally unfit to carry on the duties of his office, and even the members of his own Cabinet and the Party Leaders of his Party saw that if they were to avoid trouble and continue in power something must be done and done quickly. The two men proposed were the Vice-President, Dr. Enrique Martinez, and the Chief Justice Dr. F. Alcora, but the Minister of the Interior and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, being the two powers within the Cabinet, could not come to an agreement on one of these people. In the meantime the Press had taken up the cudgels of the Opposition, and were daily exposing the malpractices of office by members of the Administration. The President himself ignored the Constitution and the Provisions as though they did not exist, he failed to convene Congress, and he and his Ministers rode roughshod over the established institutions of the Country. Graft and scandal was flagrantly flaunted in the face of the people; just one week prior to the change of Government Dr. Horacio Oyhanarte, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, managed to put over a deal which netted him a quarter of a million dollars gold by contracting for the State Railways to purchase from the German Steel cartel 120,000 tons of steel rails, which they do not need, and which we understand from good authority can not be used for years to come. The provisions of the contract called for 5% commission, or graft, before the contract would be signed.]

[The President in his failing mentality, a picture of abject terror, trembling with fear, assembled all the armed forces of the Nation to protect himself. The most extreme and unusual measures were taken to guard his home and the Casa Rosada. The fact that it was a personal fear is demonstrated by the fact that no measures were taken to protect any other public institutions, railway centres or the port. The Army were all confined to their barracks, under full war equipment, and ordered to be ready to take the field upon a moments notice. All units of the Navy, except three, were ordered to the Port of Buenos Aires.]

While all these precautions were being taken there were daily rumours in the Press and elsewhere that great force was being brought to bear upon the Chief Executive to resign his post as President of the Nation, and this we were reliably informed he was willing to do in which case the Vice-President would have become the President of the Nation. However, this

From: H. A. Argentina      Report No. 4216      September 10, 1930

## ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Stability of Government.

(d) Armed Revolutionary Movements. (Cont'd)

was not satisfactory to Dr. Cyhanarte, and we understand that he went so far on one occasion as to actually tear up a resignation that was being presented to the President for his signature. Matters went from bad to worse, until the attitude of the populace actually became a great danger and menace to the country. It was at first the intention of the Army and Navy to insist upon Constitutional succession, and this attitude was maintained until unforeseen incidents forced the change. About five days before the actual revolution took place plans were drawn up by leaders of the Army, under the leadership of General Jose F. Uriburu, a retired Officer, for all of the troops to march calmly into the City, and demand that the Government resign. It is believed that had this taken place the Army and Navy would have stood squarely behind the constitutional succession, would have allowed Dr. Enrique Martinez to ascend to the Presidency, and form a new Cabinet. In drawing up these plans great care was taken not to offend the right of any officers who felt that they could not fall in with the scheme, and no officer or man was compelled to join the movement if he did not feel within his conscience that he could rightfully do so. These officers, however, were assigned other officers to guard them during the movement, and the personal instructions of General Uriburu to this particular group of officers were that they were to use a white kid glove with an iron hand, and cautioning them to remember that the officers, whom they were assigned to watch, would probably be their chiefs tomorrow. There were few and isolated cases where this guard was necessary. In the case of one officer at Palomar he stated that he would not leave his post unless he was shot down, so they accommodated him by very carefully shooting him in the calf of the leg, and this was the only casualty as a result of an officer not joining the movement. The plans of procedure of the entire movement was given to me in detail on Wednesday preceding the Revolution, and were immediately communicated by me to our Ambassador, who cabled them to Washington. The Government sensed some sort of movement but did not know exactly just what it was or when it was going to fall, and tried by putting various officers under arrest and keeping a close surveillance on others to find out just what the situation was. General Uriburu, however, slipped through their cordon of detectives and by a very circuitous route finally reached Campo de Mayo, the Military Base 35 kilometres from the City.

The situation was growing momentarily more tense, and on Thursday evening an incident in the Plaza de Mayo was the straw that broke the camels back. A demonstration by the students of the National University paraded the streets and marched on the Casa Rosada singing the National Anthem and calling upon the President to resign his office. The mounted police of the Capital, known as the "Guardia de Seguridad" endeavoured to break up this demonstration, but the boys forced their way through into the Plaza and commenced a great demonstration. The Security Squadron then charged the meeting and

From: M. A. Argentina      Report No. 4216      September 10, 1930

## ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Stability of Government.

(d) Armed Revolutionary Movements. (Cont'd)

in the melee some police officer fired a shot, and in another moment Plaza de Mayo was converted into a small battlefield between the Police and the Students. One student and one Police Officer was killed, and thirty persons were wounded. The entire incident was uncalled for, and any well regulated police force could have broken up the meeting without resorting to arms. The temper of the populace had now risen to fever heat and there was danger of the mob taking the City to themselves, or the Casa Rosada, and burning it to the ground. It was clear now that the Army must take immediate action to preserve order, and prevent the work of vandals that always follows such an act, especially to protect the city from Anarchists and Bolsheviks, who have been waiting for this moment to take advantage of the turmoil to sack the City, and attempt to get possession of the Government. While getting or maintaining possession of the Government by the Communists was undreamed of there is no doubt that they would have created a week or more in the City of Buenos Aires resembling "La Semana Tragica" of 1919.

On Friday afternoon President Irigoyen finally delegated his power as President to the Vice President, Dr. Enrique Martinez, but by this time it was too late to fool the public by any such political trick. It seemed remarkable that men of their intelligence could not realize the impending danger until the soldiers actually marched on the City, and even then in their stupidity they were blinded and believed that they still had loyal troops who would resist the on-coming Army. If they had only known it, the Grenadiers of San Martin, the personal Regiment of the President, who at the time were in possession of the Casa Rosada, were also in the movement.

I had been assured by my source of information that they would notify me when the march on the City was to take place, and on Friday night at ten o'clock an officer friend of mine called me by telephone, and told me the movement would begin about midnight. This information, of course, was immediately communicated to the Ambassador. At 6 o'clock in the morning 20 planes from Palomar flew over the City, and dropped handbills, (copies of the translation herewith attached), outlining the situation and demanding the surrender of the entire Government.

The actual day of Revolution, September 6th., dawned on the city of Buenos Aires and found it peaceful and tranquil. At six o'clock in the morning we drove over the entire city but there was no unusual activity to be seen any place; working people were going to their work as usual; the trams, taxicabs, policemen on the corners, the activities about the ships in the port and the coming and the going of the International Air Mail would indicate that there was nothing abnormal in the life of the city. About ten o'clock I took up a position on the roof of the highest building in

From: M.A. Argentina Report No.4216 September 10,1930.

## ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Stability of Government.

(d) Armed Revolutionary Movements. (Cont'd)

the city overlooking the Plaza and the Casa Rosada. Until noon business seemed to go along almost the same as usual with the exception of small crowds gathering in the Plaza de Mayo, but these crowds were quickly dispersed and members of the Security Squadron spent the morning keeping the Plaza and its environs clear of gatherings. Unfortunately this Squadron caused most of the day's unpleasantness. The crowd was wholly of the holiday spirit and there was no viciousness evidenced anywhere, but the members of the Security Squadron repeatedly charged these groups from time to time taking deliberate aim with their carbines and firing down the various avenues. A few people were killed and several desperately wounded. Business houses about the city carried on their affairs the same as usual, excepting those in the immediate vicinity of the Plaza where occasional shooting was going on; they kept their steel shutters down. All the banks, however, kept their doors open until noon.

By noon the city seemed to put on its holiday attire and groups of shouting, singing students and people paraded the street, avoiding, however, the Plaza de Mayo and the Security Squadron. Throughout the day rumours were numerous and it was possible to hear any kind of rumour one chose. We had steady reports of the approaching troops, and then we would get other reports of this regiment or that regiment which had mutinied and that fights were impending along the entire line. We, however, took none of these rumours seriously as we were well informed of all the plans in advance. All rumours proved to be false and the only thing that delayed the march on the Casa Rosada was the cheering throng that impeded the advance, so that instead of arriving in the city at about one o'clock, the head of the column reached the Casa Rosada shortly after five. As soon as the head of the column reached the Casa Rosada the white flag was run up. This was at five fifteen.]

The only severe clash and fighting of the day took place, after the surrender, at about five thirty o'clock, as the cadets of the Military College were passing through the Plaza Congreso directly opposite and about a mile from the Plaza de Mayo. This was caused by a cowardly attack by civilian members of the old regime known as the "Klan Radical." They had taken up an advantageous position in a building housing a cafe in a corner overlooking the Plaza Congreso, and as the column passed, they opened fire on them with machine guns from the rear. There must have been a number of guns employed because they raked the entire Plaza causing a great loss of life and casualties. The students of the Military College behaved very well and without any apparent disorder immediately went into action with one battery of field artillery and several machine guns. For thirty minutes pandemonium reigned and after the fire was silenced thirty persons had been killed and about two hundred wounded, most of the casualties being civilians who just happened to be enjoying the festivities in the Plaza at the time. However, two cadets were killed

From M.A. Argentina

Report No.4216

September 10, 1930.

## ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Stability of Government.

(d) Armed Revolutionary Movements. (Cont'd)

and a number wounded, also a police official and two soldiers were killed. There are a great many lying dangerously wounded in various hospitals and from day to day occasional other deaths are reported. The Battery of Artillery evidently used shrapnel against the Congreso, or much more damage would have resulted. As it is a great deal of work will be necessary to restore the appearance of the building.

Upon entering the Casa Rosada, the leaders of the new movement found all the members of the Cabinet had fled with the exception of the Vice President who for some minutes flatly refused to resign his post. After some twenty minutes, however upon the advice of his friends, he decided it was useless to hold out any longer and resigned. In the meantime, the President, Sr. Hipolito Irigoyen fled to the nearby city of La Plata and surrendered himself to the Colonel of the 7th. Infantry, and up to this time is housed in the home of the Colonel, an invalid. He was immediately placed under arrest upon his arrival in La Plata, but soon afterwards he signed his actual resignation and is now a guest of the new Government under the care of medical advisors. It is thought that in the very near future he will be removed to a private sanatorium.

In order to convey more clearly the tranquility of the City which marks a new epoch in Revolutionary movements, it is necessary to cite some of the incidents observed by us. The traffic police throughout the city continued in the most peaceful way to direct traffic throughout the day. Shops were open, business people passed to and fro, telegraph boys ran here and there with messages, telephone communications were normal and last of all in the "patio" in the center of the Casa Rosada, there appeared to be some repair work being done on a scaffolding which reached to the roof, and throughout the day while it was known that the troops were marching on the city, we could observe with our glasses workmen with trowel and mortar carrying on their work undisturbed by the events in front of the Casa Rosada. [Had it not been for the unpleasantness in the Plaza Congreso, and a few other isolated incidents, it would have been absolutely a bloodless revolution; rather than the army passing on and taking the city, the populace virtually went into the cuartels and brought the army in with them.]

[The only unit which was not accounted for at seven o'clock was the police force which at the last minute had been withdrawn from the street and concentrated in their central headquarters. It appeared for a moment as if they would be foolhardy enough to put up a resistance, but they were threatened with bombardment by the air force if they did not surrender at once. The order for their bombardment was actually issued over the telephone in my presence but was countermanded a moment later when the Police Department decided to surrender. It is believed that this action of the

## ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Stability of Government

(d) Armed Revolutionary Movements. (Cont'd)

police was taken only at the instigation of their former Chief, Colonel Graneros, because it is known that the great majority of the police were opposed to the last regime.

Sunday and Monday everything was normal and quiet in the city until about 7:30 on Monday night, when a ruse pulled off by the Klan Radical caused severe fighting, resulting in seven deaths and thirty casualties. By a cleverly devised plan forty telephone calls on different headquarters and units were made simultaneously, each telephone call informing the receiver that a mutiny had broken out nearby and that help was required. At the same moment three truck loads of gangsters belonging to the Klan Radical toured Plaza Mayo and the principal thoroughfares on which the soldiers are camped firing promiscuously. From this lighted match general firing broke out and before it could be stopped, the casualties before-mentioned resulted. However, like all movements of its kind, it had the reverse effect to that expected. It demonstrated the absolute solidarity of the Army and Navy and with what instant action they could draw a military police cordon about this great city. They were assisted by the Liga Patriotica and an organization of young, military trained men known as the Legion 25 de Mayo who also have a mobilization plan.

On Monday, the 8th of September, the Provisional Government was sworn in during the greatest demonstration probably ever seen in South America. The newspaper estimate of the people present was 350,000. We are enclosing a small picture we took of the inauguration, which will give you some idea of the tremendous throng.

The Revolution stands by itself as distinct from other Revolutions where established Governments have been overthrown for many reasons; firstly the so called constitutionally constituted government repeatedly broke all the sacred precepts of that very constitution, and so placed themselves in exactly the same position as any organized movement to overthrow them would be in, and could not cry to the institution that they had violated for protection of their office. They were very much like a person who comes into a Court of Chancery with unclean hands. Secondly; the incoming Government did not by decree abolish the existing Government, but asked for and received the resignations of the duly constituted authorities. Thirdly; a Cabinet of probably the most able and best blood in the Country has been selected, and the entire populace, every commercial house, every Banking institution, and the entire Diplomatic Corp are enthusiastically overjoyed at the successful coup, and the way they are carrying on the affairs of state. Fourthly; no Provisional Government has ever received the support of financial institutions that this Government is enjoying. Having been in power but two days the local Banks have offered the Government a loan of one hundred million pesos to establish their credit, which loan has been accepted. Furthermore, never before on a successful Revolutionary movement has

From: M. A. Argentina Report No.4216 September 10, 1930



## ARGENTINA (Political)

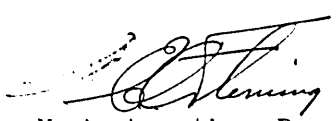
Subject: Stability of Government.

(d) Armed Revolutionary Movements. (Cont'd)

the exchange of a country been strengthened, the value of the peso in three days has increased 2½ cents gold, or .056%.

The entire country has proved itself solidly behind the Provisional Government, and every Province, without exception, is enthusiastically supporting the present movement. It is difficult to see how a Government so thoroughly supported by popular assent, business, financial and banking interests together with the armed forces of the Nation, could fail.

The Provisional President and Vice-President, as well as the Ministers, will accept no remuneration for their services, and they only expect to be in office long enough to straighten out the chaos that the past Government has caused, and expect to call for general elections at the end of about three months.



From: H. A. Argentina Report No.4216 September 10, 1930

Enc 1

T R A N S L A T I O N

COMRADES

The Army and the Navy of the country, responding to the unanimous clamour of the people of the nation, and to the peremptory demands of duty to Argentina in this solemn hour, have resolved for the future of the country to raise their flag in order to intimidate the men of the government who have betrayed the confidence of the people and of the republic to abandon immediately the offices which they no longer discharge for the common good, but for the attainment of their personal ends.

Categorical notification is given them that they can no longer count on the support of the armed institutions whose first object is to defend the national decorum, which they have compromised, and that there will not be in our ranks a single man to take arms against his comrades to defend a cause which has become a disgrace to the nation.

We advise them also that we will not tolerate that through artifice, they pretend at the last moment to save a repudiated government, and maintain in power the remains of a conglomerated politics, which is strangling the republic. We desire a change not of the men, but of the system which drags the country to its ruin and which in lack of ideals and in passive acceptance of wrongs committed is represented not only by those who today detest the government but also by those who would be called upon to take their place.

We wish to unearth inexorably politics from our ranks, but this noble purpose must not be confused with civic indifference, nor our discipline with servility. The same constitution obliges even the citizens to arm themselves in its defense. The moment has come! To Arms! to maintain the integrity of the government and the dignity of the nation.

"La Junta Militar" (Military Council)

(Dropped from aeroplanes on September 6th., 1930)

THE SECRETARY OF WAR  
DIRECTS ANSWERS TO THIS  
CABLE AS FOLLOWS:

ADVISE WITHIN 12 HOURS  
if answer is unnecessary.

If answer is NOT SENT  
WITHIN 7 DAYS REASON  
MUST BE STATED.

C. H. BRIDGES,  
Major General,  
The Adjutant General.

Copies furnished as noted:

G-2 X  
TSO V

Code -  
**CABLEGRAM.**

OFFICE OF STAFF  
MIL. INTEL. DIV.

Received at the War Department  
September 7, 1930.

WAR DEPARTMENT

10 A.

Buenos Aires

M.

1 20 From ..... The Adjutant General.

To .....

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Number 66. September 7. Revolution successful after  
desultory street fighting, only one severe clash  
casualties estimated 30 killed 200 wounded.  
General Uriburu and strong Cabinet in power.  
Diplomatic Corps and best elements enthusiastic.  
Conditions excellent.

Fleming.

G-2 Report

NOV 15

1930

3410  
WAR DEPARTMENT

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Local Political Conditions.

(b) Current Situation.

Since the de facto authorities have taken charge of the nation's affairs, hardly a day passes but there are fresh discoveries in the way of irregularities, transgressions, and even crimes committed by the members of the deposed Government.

The effects of the new regime began to make themselves felt, almost the day after, in an amazing increase in dues collected by the Port of Buenos Aires. A similar happening took place in the Municipality of Santiago del Estero, where the revenue began to take visible shape and form when a businesslike mayor was put in charge.

Multiple proof was afforded in the Federal Capital that the budgets of most State Departments had been regarded as a dead letter. To exceed them by indulging in extravagant disbursements was taken as the normal state of affairs. On the heels of this comes the discovery from Cordoba of an absolute dilapidation of funds by the members of the Legislature. After spending all the money furnished by the Budget they went ahead and incurred debts which, altogether, amount to over \$160,000.

The National Board of Education through its illegally appointed president, did things on a bigger scale. Offices, sub-offices, and educational institutions were created at his will, in order to create jobs for an army of postulants, with the result that the Education Board finds itself some \$25,000 out of pocket for the present year alone. The national interventor in Corrientes moreover took it upon himself completely to modify the education budget of that province, which meant that educational expenses for 1930 were increased by \$600,000 over the previous year.

The former Ministry of the Interior had on its pay-sheets hundreds of employees supposed to be working in the national territories, where they were never found. They resided in Buenos Aires, and their work consisted in presenting themselves at Government House for their salaries. Their functions were purely imaginary.

The cleaning up process in Mendoza has started with the task of returning to the rightful owners thousands of enrollment-books seized by the Federal agents so as to prevent the owners from taking part in the elections, when it was felt that they might give their vote to the opposition.

To mention all the abnormal and underground machinations now coming to light would be impossible. One can but state that complete disorganization and corruption were prevalent throughout the Administrative machinery - the whole forming an impressive, demoralising picture.

*E. Fleming*  
From: M.A. Argentina

Report No. 4230

October 18, 1930.

G-2 Report

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Local Political Conditions.

(b) Current Situation.

RECEIVED OCT 21 1930

The special commission appointed by the Provisional Government to make investigations into the irregularities committed by ex-President Irigoyen and his Ministers presented their report on October 20th, to Sr. Sanchez Sorondo, the Minister of the Interior.

On receipt of this report, the Provisional Government gave out the following resolution:-

"In view of the report produced by the Special Investigation Commission formulating charges against the ex-President of the Nation, Sr. Irigoyen, and the ex-Ministers, and considering:

That it is the duty of the Government to take the necessary steps to give effect to the charges against public officials;

That in this manner the Provisional Government fulfils one of the purposes of the revolution;

The President of the Provisional Government of the Argentine Nation in Cabinet Council decrees:-

"Art.1. - Let the foreign report of the Special Investigating Commission, with a legalized copy of the present decree, be forwarded to the Federal Fiscal Attorney of the Capital that he may take the corresponding action against those who, 'prima facie', appear to be responsible."

Signed: Uriburu, M.G. Sanchez Sorondo, Ernesto Bosch, Enrique S. Perez, Ernesto E. Padilla, Francisco Medina, A. Renard, Horacio Becar Varela, Octavio S. Pico."

The list of charges implicates principally Sr. Irigoyen, Sr. Horacio B. Oyhanarte, ex-Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Jose B. Avalos, ex-Minister of Public Works, and General Luis J. Dellepiane, ex-Minister of War. The memorandum of the investigation committee lays stress on the statement that the list is by no means complete.

Among the charges against the Minister of Foreign Affairs is the payment of \$19,065. m/n advance salary and \$10,000 gold for past services to Sr. Dardo Corvalan Meldil-narzu. The latter gentleman was appointed a Grade 1 Consul-General by a decree issued on August 1st, 1930, and given an order for payment of salary as from October 15th, 1928.

A similar charge is made concerning the appointment of Sr. Arturo H. Massa as Argentine Minister in Holland, the investigating committee having proved that although the decree was dated April 29th, 1929, it was not drawn up and signed until June 1930. Sr. Massa collected an advance of

From: M.A. Argentina Report No. 4233 October 21, 1930.

## ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Local Political Conditions.

(b) Current Situation.

\$20,082.50 on his salary and \$15,000. gold for his supposed services before the decree was signed.

The charges against the ex-Minister of War include a number of promotions with corresponding rises in pay of a number of Army officers, the retirement on pension before the regulation period of service, and the granting of pensions to officers who are not entitled to them.

Dr. Abalos, the ex-Minister of Public Works, is charged with giving authorization for the expenditure of various sums of money which in the opinion of the investigating committee, were illegal. These authorizations include the expenditure of \$18,980,250 by the State Railways in the line from R. de Lerma to Socompa; \$14,000,000 in the line from Parana to Maria Grande; and \$13,000,000 in the line from Pie de Palo to Mendoza. These moneys were to be paid out of "general revenue", which, by law, is entirely set apart for national administration expenses.

The ex-President, Sr. Irigoyen, is implicated in all the charges because of his signature on the documents and decrees.

Dr. Jorge Gondra, the Fiscal Attorney, has presented, in his turn to Judge Jantus the accusation against the ex-President and his Ministers, which is based on the above mentioned charges, and asks for "criminal action to be taken against the ex-President, Sr. Irigoyen, and his Ministers Horacio B. Oyhanarte, and Luis J. Dellepiane, on the charges stated, soliciting their detention and the laying of an embargo on their properties and possessions."

*C. Fleming*  
From: M.A. Argentina Report No. 4233      October 21st, 1930.

G-2 Report

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Stability of Government

(d) Armed Revolutionary Movements.

The following is a free translation covering the essential points in an official article entitled "The Revolution from a Military Point of View" as described by Lt. Col. Enrique I. Rottjer, Secretary to the present Minister of War.

"In spite of the prominence given to the Revolution by the press, it has not been viewed from an essentially military point of view. Subject to future revision, it is interesting to note briefly the motives for the Revolution, the means at disposal, how employed, etc.

In the publications to date, there has only been one that has chronologically set forth the events, and this publication has naturally been deficient through lack of sufficient information which I, on the other hand, am able to give having official documents on which to base my opinions and also through my close contact with General Uriburu.

The revolution is of general interest, and of particular interest to the Army because of the lessons contained therein not only along military lines, but in the political and social order.

The Minister of War, General Francisco Medina, who has had occasion to visit the Army troops forming the Capital and Campo Mayo divisions has thoroughly expounded the ideas back of the laws with regard to discipline and respect on the part of the Army for the constituted powers, in order that there may be a true conception of a soldier's duty, which is to observe the laws and regulations that severely punish infringements, regardless of the fact that violation of the established order may be favourably viewed by the entire nation.

It is therefore evident that a big difference exists between civilian revolutionaries and military revolutionaries. The civilian is guilty of a punishable delinquency, but the military revolutionist is also responsible for the lives under his command. The Army in a revolution has indeed the greatest responsibility, because it employs the troops at its command not to ward off a foreign enemy, which is the basic purpose for its being, but instead uses them to destroy the constitutional power.

The Argentine Army with its impeccable tradition realized on the 6th. of September one of the few acts of that nature recorded in Argentine history. The other occasions were the "Revolucion de Mayo" which freed the country from Spain and the incident at Caseros.

From M.A.Argentina

Report No.4244

November 6,1930

## ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Stability of Government

(d) Armed Revolutionary Movements.

It is not necessary to detail the reasons for the Revolution, as they have been quite well known since the press took them up in 1928. The Army could not remain indifferent to the state of affairs, and it can be said without exaggeration that long before the 6th. of September, the Army was already revolutionary.

But if the Army initiated and realized this grand movement, it was not brought about without overcoming the natural scruples that a military man feels at going contrary to his principles. It can truthfully be said that the Army left barracks with the idea of restoring the discipline which had been trampled under foot. This was the supreme object of the Revolution, and with this object in view, the Army made the supreme sacrifice. Because of the rigid concepts governing the Army which tend to keep it out of politics, it would have been impossible to bring a revolution into its ranks had it not been for this high ideal. It should be the wish of every soldier that the Army will never again be obliged to revolt against the Nation which has determined the existence of armed institutions and outlined their duties.

The progress of the Revolution was slow owing to the disorientation of the units opposed to the Government. It cannot be differentiated from any other revolution except perhaps that its success was assured as it could count on sufficient support.

The entire Army strength was not used for the Revolution as it was unnecessary. However, the following could be counted on:

For the Federal Capital: The total military aviation force with its principle bases at Palomar and Parana; the greater part of the troops of the Campo de Mayo; the Military College, the School of Communications, the Battalion of Communications, 3rd. inf. regiment, 2nd. inf. regiment, 1st. battalion of the 1st. inf. regiment, 6th. inf. regiment, 1st. machine gun company, 1st. artillery regiment, 2 squadrons of the regiment of mounted grenadiers, 1 cavalry squadron of the Superior School of War, besides the fire brigade and the greater part of the higher officials and the subalterns of the police force; and if this were not enough, the Commander in Chief of the Revolution could count on the Navy.

Regarding the rest of the country, some of the regiments had bound themselves to the cause, as, for instance, the 11th. and 12th. sections of the 3rd. regiment of artillery and the greater part of the 3rd. division of the Army. Also other chiefs and officials of the troops garrisoning the towns of the interior could be counted on.



## ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Stability of Government

(d) Armed Revolutionary Movements.

With the aforementioned forces to depend on, it was necessary to establish a plan of action. It was first intended to initiate the movement between the 20th. and 25th. of August, but due to the fact that the ex-Government was not completely ignorant of the plan, General Uriburu resolved to postpone the Revolution in order to keep the members of the deposed government in greater uncertainty.

In matters of war, it is well to remember that uncertainty provokes nervousness and moral depression. In this case it had the desired effect, but the effect on the ardent temperaments of the leaders of the Revolution had also to be borne in mind, as also the fact that much prudence had to be exercised in order to triumph with as little bloodshed as possible.

The second plan originally determined the concentration of the troops that did not form the Capital garrison in the locality of Villa Devoto, where they would join the troops stationed there by order. However, owing to trustworthy data obtained, it was thought that the deposed Government was aware of the plans and they were therefore changed, the place of reunion being fixed at San Martin, with the command at the Military College.

When the ex-President of the Nation delegated his power to the ex-Vice President, Sr. Martinez, the Commander-in-Chief of the Revolution considered the moment opportune to give orders for the movement to be carried out, this movement to be initiated by the Army and civilian airplanes.

The orders were:

1. The Palomar troops, the School of Communications and Battalion of Communications, under the command of Lt. Col. Rocco were to unite in the Colegio Militar (Military College) and at the command of the Director of the College, Col. Reynolds, they were to advance from San Martin to the city with General Uriburu at the head.

2. The Campo Mayo troops were to initiate their movement on the morning of the 6th., advancing towards San Martin.

3. The garrison troops of the Federal Capital without any manifestation, were to remain in barracks ready for orders.

At one o'clock on the 6th., an officer from Palomar presented himself to General Uriburu to state that the movement had been discovered, as that was the only interpretation that could be given to the presence of the Commander of the 2nd. division of the Army in

## ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Stability of Government

(d) Armed Revolutionary Movements.

Palomar. The officer expressed the opinion of his comrades to General Uriburu to the effect that it might be better once again to postpone the Revolution, but General Uriburu resolved to carry the matter through.

On the 6th. of September, early in the morning, the military aviation force from Palomar supported by the aviation force from the Parana base and by civilian airplanes flew over Buenos Aires dropping circulars to acquaint the people with the fact that the Revolution had begun.

At the same time, General Uriburu at the head of the Military College, and the School and Battalion of Communications, began his march from San Martín to the Capital. The capital troops in the meantime remained in barracks awaiting orders.

The troops of the interior, especially the 11th. and 12th. inf. regiments communicated to their authorities their revolutionary stand, and in Campo Mayo the movement began first under the commander of the 2nd. division of the Army and finally at the orders of the Director of the Infantry School who decided that the troops should remain in cantonment.

While the first line was advancing toward the city where it was received, as is wellknown, by the acclamations of the people, the second line was forming in the streets of Dorrego and Cabildo, this second line composed of 3 cavalry squadrons and a section of armoured cars, which was to advance in front of the barracks of Maldonado and from there on to the street - Avenida Alvear - where a portion would join General Uriburu and the remainder with the armoured cars go by way of the street - Leandro Alem - to Government House.

When the head of the column reached the corner of Córdoba and Callao, General Uriburu received a communication from Dr. Martinez, transmitted by his naval aide-de-camp to the effect that a white flag was flying from Government House and the General was invited to confer. General Uriburu asked for immediate surrender, and, as a matter of fact, at that time the party in power was already doomed.

The advance continued. At Plaza Congreso the shooting affray occurred. Immediately after the march was continued until Government House was reached.

The events that followed until the formal resignation of the ex-government have already been treated by the papers, but in order that there may be

## ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Stability of Government

(d) Armed Revolutionary Movements.


no doubt as to whether the whole of the Army was revolutionary, I may state that the 1st. cavalry regiment left Campo de Mayo and managed to join the column of march and that the 1st. regiment of artillery after overcoming some few difficulties was also able to join the revolutionary ranks, while the 3rd. regiment of infantry followed suit by advancing toward the Plaza de Mayo."

-o-

This concludes the article by Lt.Col.Enrique I.Rottjer.

The few units which were split on the idea of supporting the Revolution were in no case that I know of bound by a sense of loyalty to the former Government, but their officials were merely opposed to the idea of using armed force and insisted that while the constitutional form of government was in power that they would follow the direction and command of that government. This was especially true of the 8th. regiment of cavalry commanded by Col.Francisco C. Bosch who is a soldier of German extraction and very punctilious in following out his instincts as a professional soldier. After the Provisional Government was sworn in, Col. Bosch assured them he was as solidly behind them as a soldier of Argentina as any other officer in the Army and Col. Bosch has been retained in command of his regiment.

Several officers of the Army have been retired, or placed on the inactive list awaiting orders, for having taken advantage of their office under the previous Government to advance their own interests and all officers who had been replaced on the active list by the old Government in spite of the fact that they were under sentence of general court-martial or relieved from duty for disciplinary reasons have been removed from the active list of the Army and reverted to their former status. Some very high officials who were indecisive and could not make up their mind what to do until they could see which way the wind blew, have also been placed on the retired list; but all officers who for military or professional reasons refused to become part of the revolutionary forces as a matter of honour, have been retained on the active list of the Army and in commands commensurate with their rank. For instance, Col. Avelino J.Alvarez who endeavoured to prevent the troops of Campo de Mayo from moving with the Revolution has just been appointed Military Attaché in London.



From B.A.Argentina

Report No.4244

November 6,1930.

G-2 Report

ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Stability of Government.

(b) Stability of Present Administration.

The state of siege throughout the Republic was prolonged by the Government following a Cabinet meeting on October 4th.

The text of the decree was as follows:

"It being essential in the interest of the work of the Provisional Government to maintain absolute tranquility among the people, and;

Considering: That the movement of September 6th, has created a state of revolution in the Republic;

That the Provisional Government exercises the Executive Power by virtue of the revolution:

That, in the exercise of its powers, it has undertaken to respect the precepts of the Constitution and the fundamental laws of the country, with a view to restoring normality to its institutions;

That, having dissolved Congress, the Provisional Government has assumed its powers in the interest of Administration, and to assure the maintenance of order;

In exercise of the faculties conceded to the authorities of the Nation by the Constitution (Articles 23 and 86, clause 19), the Provisional Government of the Nation, in an accord of Ministers, decrees:

Article 1: Declare a state of siege in the entire Republic until further notice;

Article 2: By decree of his Excellency the Provisional President of the Republic, supported by the signature of the Minister of the Interior, the state of siege may be suspended temporarily, either wholly or in part;

Article 3: Let this be communicated in due course to the Honourable Congress of the Nation when constituted;

Article 4: Let it be known, etc., etc..

(signed) Uriburu, Sanchez Sorondo, Ernesto Bosch, Enrique S. Perez, Ernesto A. Padilla, Francisco Medina, A. Renard, Horacio Becoar Varela, Octavio S. Pico."

The issue of this decree appears to have caused some slight mental confusion at first. It was issued one the eve of the expiry of the period of 30 days of which a state of siege throughout the territory of the Republic was decreed by Doctor Enrique Martinez during his very brief tenure of the position of Acting-President. That decree was not revoked by the Provisional Government although it suspended it for 24 hours in the territory of the Province of Entre Rios, on the occasion of the election of provincial Senators. The pre-existing situation, with respect to state of siege is thus prolonged for an indefinite period. It exists coincidentally with the state of martial law made effective by the Provisional Government.

From: M.A. Argentina

Report No. 4247

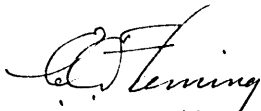
November 13, 1930

## ARGENTINA (Political)

Subject: Stability of Government.

(b) Stability of Present Administration.

Incidentally, this state of siege and martial law automatically suspends the legal rights of a citizen before a Court of Law, such as a Writ of Habeas Corpus. In this way, it is impossible for the political prisoners now being held in confinement as, for instance, the former president of the nation and his ministers, from being brought before the court and by means of legal trickery to obtain their freedom until such a time as the investigation of the former administration is complete.

  
From: M.A.Argentina

Report No.4247

November 13, 1930.